United Nations

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

First report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

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Fifty-sixth Session
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Abbreviations

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ASG	Assistant Secretary-General
CMS	central management software
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICC	International Computing Centre
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMDIS	Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System
IMIS	Integrated Management Information System
INSTRAW	United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LAN	local area network
MICAH	International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti
MICIVIH	United Nations International Civilian Mission in Haiti
MINUGUA	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala
NGO	non-governmental organization
ODS	optical disk system
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
RAM	random access memory
UNA/USA	United Nations Association of the United States of America
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFIL	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNMOGIP	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNTSO	United Nations Truce Supervision Organization
UNU	United Nations University
USG	Under-Secretary-General
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

Preface

1. The major functions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as defined by the General Assembly in its resolution 14 (I) of 13 February 1946, are:

(a) To examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;

(b) To advise the General Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it;

(c) To examine on behalf of the General Assembly the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies;

(d) To consider and report to the General Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies.

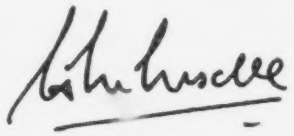
The Advisory Committee also reports on the financing of peacekeeping operations, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. In addition, the Advisory Committee reports on administrative budgets and other matters to the governing bodies of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (voluntary funds), the United Nations Environment Programme (Environment Fund), the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, the United Nations University, the World Food Programme, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

2. Under rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the members of the Advisory Committee, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience.

3. The Advisory Committee has the following membership:

C. S. M. Mselle (Chairman)
E. Besley Maycock (Vice-Chairman)
Norma Goicochea Estenoz
Giovanni Luigi Valenza
Gérard Biraud
Nazareth A. Incera
Ahmad Kamal
Rajat Saha
Nicholas Thorne
Vladimir V. Kuznetsov
Susan M. McLurg
Roger Tchoungui
Juichi Takahara
Andrzej T. Abraszewski
Manlan Narcisse Ahounou
Felipe Mabilangan

4. The present report contains the conclusions and recommendations arrived at by the Advisory Committee on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals for the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, supplemented, to the extent possible, by additional information supplied orally or in writing by representatives of the Secretary-General. As in the past, provision is made in certain sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for expenditures to which some Member States have objections in principle. Some members of the Committee have repeated those objections and stated their reasons therefor. At the same time, the Committee considered that the controversy concerning such items did not fall within the province of the Advisory Committee, which under rule 157 of the rules of procedure is responsible for expert examination of the programme budget of the United Nations.



C. S. M. **Mselle**
Chairman

Chapter I
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

A. General

1. For the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General proposes a programme budget in the amount of $2,648,715,600 for the expenditure sections and $400,166,100 for the income sections. On a net basis, the estimates for 2002-2003 amount, therefore, to $2,248,549,500. In this connection, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 55/233 of 23 December 2000, invited the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 on the basis of a total preliminary estimate of $2,515.3 million at revised 2000-2001 rates. In table 1 below, the estimates for 2002-2003 are compared with the revised appropriations for 2000-2001, as approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 55/239 A and B of 23 December 2000, and with the actual expenditure and income in the biennium 1998-1999.

Table 1
Comparison of income and expenditure for the bienniums 1998-1999, 2000-2001 and 2002-2003
(Thousands of United States dollars)

				Total increase in 2002-2003 over 2000-2001	
	(1)	*(2)*	*(3)*	*(4)*	*(5)*
Component	*Actual 1998-1999*	*Revised appropriation 2000-2001*	*Estimate 2002-2003*	*Amount (3)-(2)*	*Percentage (4)÷(2)*
Expenditure	2 487 759.0	2 533 125.4	2 648 715.6	115 590.2	4.6
Income	376 054.0	380 822.7	400 166.1	19 343.4	5.1
Net	**2 111 705.0**	**2 152 302.7**	**2 248 549.5**	**96 246.8**	**4.5**

2. The Secretary-General's programme budget proposals for the biennium 2002-2003[1] cover the regular budget of the Organization. The estimates of extrabudgetary resources that are likely to be available to the United Nations in the coming biennium are also given. As shown in table 1 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget, the total of $3,834,409,500 comprises $286,768,200 for support, $238,390,800 for substantive activities and $3,309,250,500 for operational activities. The grand total, including the net estimate for the regular budget, is therefore $6,082,959,000.

3. The estimates do not include the costs of peacekeeping operations and the International Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, which are funded separately by assessed contributions. The Advisory Committee was informed that for the periods 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 and 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 actual and projected assessments on Member States in respect of peacekeeping operations, excluding the costs for special missions covered under the regular budget, were expected to total nearly $6 billion. The revised appropriations for 2000 and the

initial appropriations for 2001 for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, under General Assembly resolutions 54/239 A and B, 54/240 A and B, 55/225 A and B and 55/226, total $394,766,800 gross ($356,164,300 net), excluding the commitment authority of $5,280,900 gross ($4,899,400 net) relating to ad litem judges for the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (General Assembly resolution 55/225 B).

1. Format and presentation

4. **The Advisory Committee commends the Secretariat for the improved timeliness of the submission of the proposed programme budget. The Committee also notes with satisfaction the clarity of the Introduction and of the budget narratives.**

5. The Advisory Committee notes the measures taken in response to its previous recommendations regarding the presentation of other staff costs and travel resources (see paragraphs 49-50 of the Introduction). The Secretariat has reverted to the practice of presenting estimates for travel in the tables, showing a summary of requirements by object of expenditure in two categories — travel of representatives and official travel of staff — in table 13 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget. The Committee points out that consolidated information on training has not been produced in the proposed programme budget, even though this was requested in paragraph 7 (b) of the Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[2] The information was provided to the Committee subsequently and is reflected in chapter II below under section 27C. The Committee also regrets that the recommendation contained in paragraph 6 of its previous report requesting the provision of "appropriate and significant comparative workload indicators" has not been consistently implemented throughout the budget.

6. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that standardized reporting on publications would be enhanced by the inclusion in each relevant budget section of information on the number of publications by component, such as is found for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in table A.11A.23 of the proposed programme budget.**

7. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that in presenting organization charts, care should be taken to ensure that complete information on proposals for additional posts and reclassifications is reflected.**

8. The Advisory Committee recalls its statement in paragraph 6 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that budget narratives could be made more concise and transparent through the greater use of graphs, charts and tables. This is true for both the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources. In general terms, information that is easily obtained from graphics should not be repeated in narratives, which should concentrate on analysing the information provided so as to justify the estimates. The narratives should also contain information as to the extent of collaboration between the various structures of the Secretariat to carry out programmes that are implemented by more than one organizational unit.

9. As stated in paragraph 46 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000, the proposed budget for 2002-2003 has been reoriented towards a results-

based format. The annex to the Introduction includes explanatory notes on results-based budgeting, which respond to various requests of the Assembly, as well as those of the Advisory Committee (see A/55/543).

10. The Advisory Committee notes the statement in the proposed budget on objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement (see Introduction, annex, para. 10). **With regard to objectives and expected accomplishments, the Advisory Committee has noted numerous cases in which they are too vague. Moreover, while in a number of cases they are reproduced verbatim from the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[3] in other cases expected accomplishments are substantively different from those indicated in the medium-term plan. The Committee recalls its report on results-based budgeting (A/55/543, paras. 9 and 12), in which it noted the difficulties in distinguishing between objectives and expected accomplishments and the importance of defining terms and guidelines.**

11. **Although the Advisory Committee expects that with experience progress will be made in refining the various tools employed in results-based budgeting, for that to happen the exercise must first be on the right track. The concept of results-based budgeting in the United Nations is expected to shift the current emphasis on inputs to results achieved and accountability for those achievements. The important question is what is being achieved by whom. The United Nations budget cannot be expected to be a useful tool to measure the extent to which Member States have exercised their own will to accomplish their political objectives. The results sought should therefore be achievable through the programme of work financed by the United Nations budget.** In this connection, the Committee recalls section I, paragraph 6, of General Assembly resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000, in which the Secretary-General is requested to ensure that, in presenting the medium-term plan, expected accomplishments and, where possible, indicators of achievement are included to measure achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization, not those of individual Member States. In section II, paragraph 4, of the same resolution, the Assembly recognized the need for clear statements of objectives, expected accomplishments and corresponding indicators of achievement in future medium-term plans and programme budgets in order to ensure better assessment of the implementation of programmes in the context of the biennial programme performance reports, in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

12. **The Advisory Committee points out that once the budget has been approved by the General Assembly it becomes a blueprint for action and a management tool that links policy directives and mandates of legislative bodies to the activities and the resources necessary to carry them out. Since more than 70 per cent of the resources in the budget are for staff costs, for the budget to be a coherent document, objectives and expected accomplishments must be directly related to what the Secretariat does and what is achievable. Consistent with this, what are described as external factors must also be specific and directly related to the work to be carried out (see para. 67 below).**

13. **The Advisory Committee has also noted numerous instances in which indicators of achievement are described in vague terms, and in many instances**

they are different from what is contained in the medium-term plan. As described in the annex to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, an indicator of achievement should measure progress in achieving objectives and/or expected accomplishments. The Committee points out that when using phrases such as "an increase in" or "an improvement of", it is essential to specify the benchmarks in a given biennium against which such activity is to be measured, as well as to give a specific indication of how much of an increase or an improvement is expected against the benchmark in absolute terms or as a percentage.

14. **With the introduction of results-based budgeting, it is important that outputs be linked to the implementation of the stated objectives and the attainment of expected accomplishments. The Advisory Committee points out, however, that there is not yet any system in place for costing outputs, an essential element in results-based budgeting techniques. The Committee notes paragraph 21 of the annex to the Introduction, which concerns the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS) (see para. 93 below) and recalls and reiterates paragraph 24 (c) of its report on results-based budgeting (A/55/543). The Committee is of the opinion that progress in the control of outputs and in the formulation of precise indicators of achievement will inevitably be tied to the development of a comprehensive programme information system that is linked to the United Nations financial systems. To that end, and in the context of implementation of the information technology strategy, the Committee recommends that a review of the issue of linking these systems be conducted and its results be included in the interim progress report referred to below.**

15. Specific comments of the Advisory Committee on the presentation of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement can be found throughout chapter II below as they relate to specific sections of the budget. The Committee will continue to monitor progress in this critically important aspect of results-based budgeting. In this connection, the Committee notes the intention of the Secretary-General to request all departments to report, in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005, to what extent performance data had affected the design of the programme of work, as well as his intention to submit an interim report, towards the middle of the biennium 2002-2003, on progress made regarding the collection of performance data for the indicators of achievement (see Introduction, annex, paras. 35 and 38). **Taking into account the statements contained in paragraph 24 of the annex to the Introduction, the Committee trusts that the interim report will include an indication of how the performance of any given programme will be evaluated.**

16. Another aspect of the change in format due to the introduction of results-based budgeting is the presentation of financial data and supporting justification for the budget requests. As previously signalled by the Secretary-General in his report on results-based budgeting (A/54/456, paras. 50-55), the detailed budget analysis and justification has been separated from the main part of each budget section and included as "indicative resource requirements" in the annex to each section. In this connection the Advisory Committee recalls the discussion in its report on results-based budgeting of the presentation of budget information during the transitional phase of results-based budgeting (A/55/543, para. 21). The Committee also recalls paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 55/231, in which the Assembly

decided that the proposed programme budget should contain input data at the same level of detail as that provided in the previous budget. While the efficacy of the new presentation of financial information and supporting data will have to await experience, there are some aspects upon which the Committee can comment even at this stage.

17. **The first has to do with the use of the term "indicative" to characterize the resource requirements detailed in the annex to each budget section (see Introduction, annex, paras. 7 and 46). The Advisory Committee trusts that the use of this term does not and will not imply any departure from the integrity of the decision-making process and the level of flexibility in using post and non-post resources currently available to the Secretary-General (see ibid., paras. 13 and 14).**

18. Another innovation in the budget format involves the presentation of staffing levels. Staffing information in the main part is presented only in summary format. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that to eliminate any notion that the requirements of General Assembly resolution 55/231, paragraph 25, are not being implemented in full, the staffing information in the main part should continue to be presented in the traditional manner.**

2. Methodology

19. As indicated in paragraph 39 of the Introduction, the methodology followed in the preparation of the financial requirements remains unchanged from that used for the 2000-2001 budget, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/212 A of 23 December 1992. The methodology is described in paragraphs 39-45 of the Introduction. The Advisory Committee notes the introduction of new arrangements for reimbursement of services provided by the Information Technology Services Division. These are discussed in detail under section 27D in chapter II below.

B. Analysis of expenditure estimates for the biennium 2002-2003

20. As noted in paragraph 1 above, expenditure estimates for the biennium 2002-2003 amount to $2,648,715,600, as compared with the revised appropriation of $2,533,125,400 for the biennium 2000-2001, which was approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/239 A. This represents an increase in nominal terms of $115,590,200, or 4.6 per cent (as a net result of a negative resource growth of $13.7 million, or minus 0.5 per cent and a recosting increase of $129.3 million). It compares with an increase of $125,458,900, or 5 per cent, for the initial estimates for the biennium 2000-2001 over the revised appropriations for the biennium 1998-1999.

21. The calculation of the level of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is shown in table 2.

Table 2
Calculation of the level of the proposed programme budget

	Thousands of United States dollars	*Percentage*
2000-2001 revised appropriation (General Assembly resolution 55/239 A)	2 533 125.4	100.0
Resource growth	(13 721.6)	-0.5
Provision for recosting, i.e., projected inflation in 1999, 2000 and 2001 and reinstatement of a uniform Professional vacancy rate	129 311.8	5.1
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003	2 648 715.6	104.6[a]

[a] Rounded.

1. Resource growth

22. The negative resource growth of $13,721,600 has been arrived at as shown in table 3. The Advisory Committee notes the statement of the Secretary-General in paragraph 18 of the Introduction that requirements relating to the issue of staff security and the outcome of the comprehensive review of the management, structure, recruitment processes and interrelationships of all relevant elements within the Secretariat that play a role in peace operations had not been reflected in the proposals and would be addressed at a later stage.

Table 3
Calculation of the amount of resource growth

	United States dollars
Provisions not carried over from 2000-2001	(147 971 500)
Delayed impact relating to new posts in 2000-2001	15 633 500
Increase in the proposed programme budget	118 616 400
Total	**(13 721 600)**

Provisions not carried over

23. **The major element under this heading is an amount of $115.3 million for special political missions. It should be noted that a provision of $93.7 million (before recosting) has been included for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003. Given the current treatment of special political missions and the fact that provision for them is made in the budget outline, the Advisory Committee questions the utility of continuing to treat the provision for special political missions as non-recurrent. Moreover, thought should be given as to whether a similar change could be made in the treatment of the estimates for special sessions and special conferences. The results of this analysis should be reflected**

in the Secretary-General's proposals on the budget outline for the biennium 2004-2005.

Delayed impact relating to new posts in 2000-2001

24. The delayed impact of $15.6 million (see para. 22 above) pertains to the difference between the partial provision for 129 new posts appropriated in the biennium 2000-2001 (79 in 2000 plus another 50 in 2001) and their full biennial cost in 2002-2003.

Net increase in the proposed budget

25. The estimates shown in table 3 for "increase in the proposed programme budget", at revised 2000-2001 rates, is $118,616,400. A breakdown by main object of expenditure of increases and decreases in order of magnitude is provided in table 4.

Table 4
Breakdown of the increase in the proposed programme budget

Object of expenditure	*Amount (thousands of United States dollars)*
Increases	
Other expenditures	94 769.7
Grants and contributions	36 804.6
Contractual services	6 261.2
Alterations and major maintenance	5 649.5
Furniture and equipment	4 709.6
Consultants and experts	2 128.3
Other staff costs	1 612.6
Travel of staff	1 185.0
Non-staff compensation	263.9
Travel of representatives	74.7
Hospitality	7.4
Subtotal	**153 466.5**
Decreases	
Posts	30 538.0
General operating expenses	2 795.9
Supplies and materials	1 516.2
Subtotal	**34 850.1**
Total increase (1)-(2)	**118 616.4**

26. The largest increase, an amount of $94.8 million under other expenditures, includes $93.7 million for special missions in 2002-2003 (see para. 23 above).

27. The increase under grants and contributions relates mainly to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), where it reflects the redeployment of amounts previously funded under posts and other objects of expenditure (see section 23, paras. A.23.1-A.23.5, of the proposed programme budget).

28. The Advisory Committee was informed that the composition of the net increase of $1,612,600 under other staff costs was as set out in table 5.

Table 5
Breakdown of the increase under other staff costs

Component: other staff costs	*Amount (thousands of United States dollars)*
1. Increases	
After-service health insurance	3 415.0
Temporary assistance for meetings	2 616.0
Other personnel-related costs	522.2
Daily mission subsistence allowance	142.2
Hazardous duty station allowance	40.3
Subtotal	**6 735.7**
2. Decreases	
Personal service contracts	2 975.6
General temporary assistance	1 070.0
Overtime and night differential	686.0
Compensatory payments	290.0
Residential security measures	101.5
Subtotal	**5 123.1**
Net increase (1)-(2)	**1 612.6**

29. As shown in table 4 above, the decrease under posts is $30,538,000, of which $17,338,100 relates to salaries for established and temporary posts, $6,059,600 to common staff costs and $7,140,300 to staff assessment.

30. The decrease in salaries is attributable to the net decrease of 94 regular posts (see para. 43 below).

31. The Advisory Committee notes that information on the composition of realized common staff costs has been included in table 16 of the Introduction.

32. According to information received, the net decrease of $2,795,900 under general operating expenses (see table 4 above) may be broken down as shown in table 6.

Table 6
Breakdown of the decrease under general operating expenses

Component: general operating expenses	*Amount (thousands of United States dollars)*
Rental of equipment	(3 914.0)
Communications	(1 867.8)
Rental and maintenance of premises	(538.0)
Office automation equipment and technology	(516.2)
Miscellaneous services	467.1
Maintenance of furniture and equipment	960.0
Utilities	2 613.0
Total	**(2 795.9)**

2. Recosting

33. A statement summarizing the approved process for recosting can be found in paragraph 14 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget. As indicated in table 2 above, the total estimate under recosting is $129,311,800. The results of recosting represent adjustments to the estimates at revised 2000-2001 rates in order to recalculate the level of resources at 2002-2003 price levels and the reinstatement of uniform vacancy rates for Professional and General Service posts. The Advisory Committee points out that, as stated in paragraph 14 of the Introduction, the proposed programme budget will be recosted again prior to its adoption by the General Assembly in December 2001.

34. The elements of recosting are set out in table 7.

Table 7
Elements of recosting

Element	*Amount (thousands of United States dollars)*
2002-2003 currency and inflation over 2000 and 2001	109 361.1
Reinstatement of a uniform vacancy rate of 5 per cent for Professional posts and 2 per cent for General Service posts	19 950.7
Total	**129 311.8**

35. A statement on the treatment of currency movements is contained in paragraph 45 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget.

36. The vacancy rates for Professional and General Service staff for the years 2000 and 2001 and the biennium 2002-2003 are set out in table 8. The vacancy factor for 2002-2003 is discussed in paragraph 44 of the Introduction. Table 9 updates table 11 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget and presents vacancy statistics by section as at 30 June 2001.

37. The Advisory Committee recalls the statement of the General Assembly in section V, paragraph 3, of its resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001 with regard to the need for increased mobility between duty stations; this could help to address the difficulties experienced in those areas where the vacancy rate is unduly high.

Table 8
Vacancy rates

Category	*2000 actual*	*2001 projected*	*2002-2003 proposed*
Professional	8.3	6.5	5.0
General Service	2.7	2.5	2.0

Table 9

Vacancy statistics for authorized posts under the regular budget as at 30 June 2001

Section	Professional			General Service			Total		
	Authorized	*Vacant*	*Rate*	*Authorized*	*Vacant*	*Rate*	*Authorized*	*Vacant*	*Rate*
1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	60	6	10.0	75	1	1.3	135	7	5.2
2. General Assembly affairs and conference services	910	23	2.5	955	4	0.4	1 865	27	1.4
3. Political affairs	131	13	9.9	114	2	1.8	245	15	6.1
4. Disarmament	30	0	0.0	18	1	5.6	48	1	2.1
5. Peacekeeping operations	43	4	9.3	311	11	3.5	354	15	4.2
6. Peaceful uses of outer space	13	2	15.4	5	1	20.0	18	3	16.7
7. International Court of Justice	38	0	0.0	37	0	0.0	75	0	0.0
8. Legal affairs	81	4	4.9	63	0	0.0	144	4	2.8
9. Economic and social affairs	288	7	2.4	231	3	1.3	519	10	1.9
10. Africa: New Agenda for Development	14	3	21.4	9	1	11.1	23	4	17.4
11A. Trade and development	231	12	5.2	170	10	5.9	401	22	5.5
12. Environment	22	0	0.0	17	2	11.8	39	2	5.1
13. Human settlements	42	0	0.0	24	0	0.0	66	0	0.0
14. Crime prevention and criminal justice	19	0	0.0	5	0	0.0	24	0	0.0
15. International drug control	47	1	2.1	24	0	0.0	71	1	1.4
16. Economic and social development in Africa	222	66	29.7	350	39	11.1	572	105	18.4
17. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	174	10	5.7	296	26	8.8	470	36	7.7
18. Economic development in Europe	115	10	8.7	81	2	2.5	196	12	6.1
19. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	182	3	1.6	311	8	2.6	493	11	2.2
20. Economic and social development in Western Asia	104	7	6.7	164	6	3.7	268	13	4.9
22. Human rights	96	5	5.2	52	3	5.8	148	8	5.4
23. Protection of and assistance to refugees	89	4	4.5	131	1	0.8	220	5	2.3
24. Palestine refugees	87	12	13.8	11	1	9.1	98	13	13.3
25. Humanitarian assistance	37	4	10.8	17	0	0.0	54	4	7.4
26. Public information[a]	265	12	4.5	470	10	2.1	735	22	3.0
27. Management and central support services	367	28	7.6	1 222	13	1.1	1 589	41	2.6
28. Internal oversight	59	1	1.7	28	1	3.6	87	2	2.3
30. Special expenses	16	15	93.8	16	16	100.0	32	31	96.9
Subtotal	**3 782**	**252**	**6.7**	**5 207**	**162**	**3.1**	**8 989**	**414**	**4.6**
Income section 3. Services to the public	23	5	21.7	109	6	5.5	132	11	8.3
Subtotal	**23**	**5**	**21.7**	**109**	**6**	**5.5**	**132**	**11**	**8.3**
Total	**3 805**	**257**	**6.8**	**5 316**	**168**	**3.2**	**9 121**	**425**	**4.7**

[a] May rates; June rates not yet available.

C. Personnel matters

38. The staffing resources available for carrying out the work programme of the Organization include established posts, temporary posts, temporary assistance, consultants and ad hoc expert groups; these resources are financed from both the regular budget and extrabudgetary funds.

39. As shown in table 6 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, resource requirements for posts are estimated at $1,413,299,100, and requirements for other staff costs are estimated at $148,662,100, for a total of $1,561,961,200 (excluding staff assessment) under the expenditure sections for 2002-2003. If the estimate under income section 3 of $29,215,700 (net of staff assessment) for posts and other staff costs is added, the total is $1,591,176,900.

40. The Advisory Committee points out that the data contained in schedule 4.1 of the audited financial statements of the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 1999[4] indicate that out of a total final appropriation of $2,488.3 million, some $1,928.6 million, or approximately 77.5 per cent, were for salaries and common staff costs.

41. In table 13 of the Introduction, the Secretary-General estimates posts and other staff costs of extrabudgetary staff at approximately $1,415,050,100, including staff financed from the support account for peacekeeping operations. It can thus be said that personnel costs to be financed from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources would amount to an estimated $3,006,227,000 in 2002-2003.

1. Regular budget established and temporary posts

42. Under the expenditure sections and income section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General has requested a total of 9,019 posts. In table 10 below, which includes income section 3, Services to the public, the request for 2002-2003 is compared with the authorized staffing table for 2000-2001 (see also table 9 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget).

Table 10
Number of posts requested for 2002-2003 compared with authorized staffing for 2000-2001

	Professional category and above			*General Service and related categories*			*Total*		
	2000-2001	*2002-2003*	*Increase (decrease)*	*2000-2001*	*2002-2003*	*Increase (decrease)*	*2000-2001*	*2002-2003*	*Increase (decrease)*
Established posts	3 761	3 774	13	5 248	5 149	(99)	9 009	8 923	(86)
Temporary posts	44	38	(6)	68	58	(10)	112	96	(16)
Total	**3 805**	**3 812**	**7**	**5 316**	**5 207**	**(109)**	**9 121**	**9 019**	**(102)[a]**

[a] Includes a reduction of eight posts under income section 3.

43. As can be seen from paragraph 19 of the Introduction, the net decrease of 94 regular budget established and temporary posts under the expenditure sections is the result of proposals for the following:

(a) New posts: 142

(b) Conversions: 33

(c) Other adjustments

UNHCR: (218)

United Nations Security Coordinator: (32)

(d) Abolitions: (19)

There is a detailed discussion and comprehensive analysis of proposed staffing in paragraphs 19-30 of the Introduction. Information can be found therein for each of the categories listed above. The specific comments of the Advisory Committee on staffing proposals are contained in chapter II below.

44. Out of the 403 redeployments shown in table 11 below, there are 357 redeployments between programmes and subprogrammes within sections. Transfers between sections are limited to 46 posts transferred from section 27 (Management and central support services) to section 2 (General Assembly affairs and conference services) as follows: 40 posts (2 P-5, 8 P-4, 15 P-3, and 15 Local level) relating to conference services in Nairobi (section 27G) and 6 posts (1 P-2 and 5 General Service (Other level)) from Administration, Geneva (section 27E).

45. The Advisory Committee requested information on the total number of regular budget and extrabudgetary posts (including peacekeeping) at the D-1 level and above since 1996 as compared with posts at other levels. That information is shown in tables 12 and 13.

Table 11

Proposed redeployment of posts for the biennium 2002-2003

Budget section		Professional category and above							General Service and related categories						Total
		D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2	Subtotal	PL	OL	SS	LL	FS	Subtotal	
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services[a]			3	9	17	2	31		15		15		30	61
3.	Political affairs				2			2		2				2	4
4.	Disarmament		2	3	4	4	4	17	3	7				10	27
5.	Peacekeeping operations				1			1		1				1	2
8.	Legal affairs							-		3				3	3
9.	Economic and social affairs							-		1				1	1
11A.	Trade and development			5	5	6	2	18	1	14				15	33
12.	Environment			2				2						0	2
13.	Human settlements		1	1	1	1	1	5				1		1	6
15.	International drug control				2	2	2	6						0	6
16.	Economic and social development in Africa		1	4	10	8	6	29				38	3	41	70
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific							-				36		36	36
18.	Economic development in Europe						1	1						0	1
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean			1	2	1	1	5				12		12	17
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia					2		2						0	2
25.	Humanitarian assistance	1				2		3						0	3
26.	Public information			2	3	5		10		3				3	13
27.	Management and central support services[b]		2	6	4	4	4	20	7	72				79	99
28.	Internal oversight		1	3	4	2		10	3	4				7	17
	Total	1	7	30	47	54	23	162	14	122	-	102	3	241	403

Abbreviations: PL, Principal level; OL, Other level; SS, Security Service; LL, Local level; FS, Field Service.

[a] Includes 15 internal redeployments and 46 posts transferred from section 27.

[b] Reflects internal redeployments only, not the 46 posts transferred out to section 2.

Table 12
Number of posts by source of funds and grade level (1996-2003) (excluding peacekeeping)

	Authorized posts						*Proposed posts*	
	1996-1997		*1998-1999*		*2000-2001*		*2002-2003*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Regular budget								
USG	24	0.2	26	0.3	26	0.3	26	0.3
ASG	16	0.2	18	0.2	18	0.2	20	0.2
D-2	83	0.8	75	0.8	79	0.9	84	0.9
D-1	270	2.7	253	2.9	254	2.8	248	2.8
Professional	3 571	35.7	3 249	37.2	3 405	37.9	3 414	38.4
General Service and others	6 048	60.4	5 120	58.6	5 207	57.9	5 103	57.4
Total	**10 012**	**100.0**	**8 741**	**100.0**	**8 989**	**100.0**	**8 895**	**100.0**
Extrabudgetary including support account resources								
ASG	2	0.0	3	0.1	2	0.0	2	0.0
D-2	44	0.6	45	0.6	30	0.4	32	0.4
D-1	139	1.8	116	1.5	123	1.9	148	2.0
Professional	2 393	30.7	2 264	29.7	2 048	30.9	2 419	31.9
General Service and others	5 215	66.9	5 194	68.1	4 429	66.8	4 981	65.7
Total	**7 793**	**100.0**	**7 622**	**100.0**	**6 632**	**100.0**	**7 582**	**100.0**
International Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda[a]								
USG	1	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.1		
ASG	2	0.3	2	0.1	2	0.1		
D-2	2	0.3	2	0.1	2	0.1		
D-1	6	0.8	8	0.5	8	0.4		
Professional	379	48.3	684	44.0	799	43.4		
General Service and others	394	50.2	859	55.2	1 028	55.9		
Total	**784**	**100.0**	**1 556**	**100.0**	**1 840**	**100.0**		

[a] Since the Tribunals' budgets are prepared on an annual basis, only the approved odd-year totals are shown for comparison purposes. Estimates for 2002-2003 are not yet available.

Table 13
Number of civilian posts in all peacekeeping operations (1 July 1996 to 30 June 2002)

Category	*Year ended 30 June*					
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002[a]*
International staff						
Professional category and above						
Under-Secretary-General	6	7	5	8	8	8
Assistant Secretary-General	11	10	10	17	18	18
D-2	13	17	12	30	31	32
D-1	33	37	32	91	91	96
P-5	89	75	65	238	269	287
P-4	179	213	181	632	689	711
P-3	293	292	251	785	933	1 012
P-2/P-1	89	85	56	113	163	181
Subtotal	**713**	**736**	**612**	**1 914**	**2 202**	**2 345**
General Service						
Principal level	20	27	17	43	42	42
Other level	654	658	498	813	858	948
Subtotal	**674**	**685**	**515**	**856**	**900**	**990**
Field Service	823	840	617	1 331	1 443	1 607
Security Service	48	62	33	83	89	89
Total, international staff	**2 258**	**2 323**	**1 777**	**4 184**	**4 634**	**5 031**
Local staff	1 806	1 526	1 409	3 522	4 190	4 591
Total	**4 064**	**3 849**	**3 186**	**7 706**	**8 824**	**9 622**

[a] Proposed.

46. The Advisory Committee notes from table 12 that the proportion of posts at D-1 level and above is creeping up. The increases shown in table 13 are at least partially attributable to increases in the size and number of peacekeeping operations. The Committee reiterates its oft-repeated caution to guard against "grade creep". It is, therefore, imperative to bear in mind that reclassification proposals should be made only in exceptional circumstances. Moreover, from time to time the appropriateness of senior-level grades should be reviewed and, if called for, downward reclassifications should be proposed. The Committee's experience with regard to a number of requests to reclassify posts leads it to restate its position regarding the grading of posts. For any request involving the grading of a post, the Committee has been guided by the general principle that proposals must be justified solely in relation to the post itself and without reference to the incumbent or potential incumbent.

47. The Advisory Committee points out that any reclassification of posts should be justified in terms of a change in the nature or scope of the work and should not be motivated by the need either to enhance the prospects for recruitment or to provide a promotion for the incumbent (see, for example, para. 63 of the Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 (A/48/7), which was endorsed by the General Assembly in sect. II, para. 1, of its resolution 48/228 A of 23 December 1993). The Committee also points to the need to eliminate the practice of encumbering a post at a level higher than that at which it is graded in the expectation that the post will subsequently be upgraded in order to accommodate the incumbent.

48. It is the opinion of the Advisory Committee that career prospects and promotion of staff are human resource management issues that cannot normally be handled through the reclassification of posts. Indeed, extensive upward reclassification has a tendency to temporarily remove pressure at lower grades only to re-establish, in a few years, bottlenecks at higher levels. Effective recruitment and placement planning, vacancy management and mobility and retirement management are the proper human resources instruments to handle career planning rather than the ineffective, sporadic and intermittent reclassification of posts.

49. The Advisory Committee emphasizes that should there be any requirement for reclassification, full details outlining the increase in responsibility and change in nature and scope of work, as well as related workload statistics, should be furnished to justify such a request.

2. Temporary assistance and consultants

50. As can be seen from table 6 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget, the expenditure sections include a total of $148.7 million under other staff costs in 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee was informed that this total included $52.9 million for general temporary assistance. As a rule, the greatest use of general temporary assistance is for additional staff during periods of peak workload; general temporary assistance is also used for the replacement of staff on prolonged sick leave or maternity leave. **The Advisory Committee recalls its statement about the use of general temporary assistance in paragraph 52 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[2]**

51. The Advisory Committee requested a breakdown of general temporary assistance resources proposed by section and was provided with table 14.

Table 14

Temporary assistance resources proposed for the biennium 2002-2003 compared with the appropriation for 2000-2001

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Section		*2000-2001 appropriation*	*Resource growth*	*Recosting*	*2002-2003 estimate*
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	1 243.5	(726.2)	26.0	543.3
2.	General Assembly affairs and conference services	2 570.2	(260.5)	106.2	2 415.9
3.	Political affairs	55 991.5	(55 183.4)	44.2	852.3
4.	Disarmament	532.9	(343.9)	9.6	198.6
5.	Peacekeeping operations	1 497.2	(838.5)	34.3	693.0
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	29.4		(0.2)	29.2
7.	International Court of Justice	212.3		4.5	216.8
8.	Legal affairs	262.0	(40.5)	12.2	233.7
9.	Economic and social affairs	1 796.4	219.8	110.2	2 126.4
10.	Africa: New Agenda for Development	206.5		10.3	216.8
11A.	Trade and development	1 675.7	(758.8)	7.8	924.7
12.	Environment	56.4		2.3	58.7
13.	Human settlements	431.3	(248.3)	9.6	192.6
14.	Crime prevention and criminal justice	280.1	(176.4)	(0.4)	103.3
15.	International drug control	331.2		(1.0)	330.2
16.	Economic and social development in Africa	877.1		41.0	918.1
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	205.8		(2.2)	203.6
18.	Economic development in Europe	242.7	(113.2)	1.5	131.0
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	1 121.5	(12.3)	61.4	1 170.6
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	137.6		4.2	141.8
21.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	28 500.8	(527.3)	959.7	28 933.2
22.	Human rights	2 237.4	183.6	24.7	2 445.7
23.	Protection of and assistance to refugees	1 428.9	(1 428.9)		
24.	Palestine refugees	23.4	(11.0)	0.7	13.1
25.	Humanitarian assistance	497.3		17.6	514.9
26.	Public information	3 327.6	(62.3)	162.1	3 427.4
27.	Management and central support services	6 380.7	(817.9)	202.7	5 765.5
28.	Internal oversight	123.1	9.2	7.4	139.7
	Total	**112 220.5**	**(61 136.8)**	**1 856.4**	**52 940.1**

52. As can be seen from table 14, the estimates for general temporary assistance appear to have been reduced by some $61.1 million from the 2000-2001 appropriation of $112.2 million. However, the net decrease is largely attributable to a reduction of $55.2 million under section 3, Political affairs (see table 15). In addition, a decrease of $1.4 million is shown under section 23, Protection of and assistance to refugees. This reflects the funding adjustment of UNHCR under grants and contributions. The Advisory Committee's comments on the treatment of the estimate for special political missions appear in paragraph 23 above.

Table 15
Breakdown of the decrease in general temporary assistance in the Department of Political Affairs
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Department of Political Affairs	74.1
Special political missions	
Office of Secretary-General in Afghanistan	(4 512.5)
United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories/Middle East Peace Process	(0.2)
Central American Peace Process	(368.8)
United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala	(18 972.2)
Special Envoy for the Central African Republic and Congo	(16.8)
Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for southern Lebanon	(390.6)
Expert Panel on Natural Resources in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	(798.4)
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Tajikistan	(889.6)
Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Cyprus	(322.3)
Monitoring Mechanism on Angola	(29.4)
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic	(2 820.8)
Assistance to the Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process	(797.1)
Adviser for Special Assignments in Africa	(996.1)
International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti	(4 840.7)
United Nations Office in Angola	(8 536.3)
Special envoys of the Secretary-General for the Balkans	(347.1)
International Civilian Mission in Haiti	(643.0)
United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau	(2 274.9)
Expert studies on violation of the measures against UNITA	(35.7)
United Nations Office in Burundi	(2 053.2)
United Nations Office for Somalia	(757.7)
Controversy between Guyana and Venezuela	(19.0)
United Nations Office in Bougainville	(1 055.1)
United Nations Office in Liberia	(1 879.3)
Special Envoy in Africa	(108.2)
Special Representative for the Great Lakes region in Africa	(1 792.5)
Total	**(55 183.4)**

53. The Advisory Committee was informed that the overall estimate for temporary assistance for meetings for 2002-2003 was $40.2 million. The estimate included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 was $38.9 million. Those funds are requested for short-term interpreters, translators, typists and other conference-servicing staff. The observations of the Committee on temporary assistance for meetings are contained in chapter II, section 2, below.

54. As can be seen from table 6 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget, the total request for consultants and expert groups is $17.4 million for 2002-2003, as compared with $18 million for 2000-2001.[5] The Advisory Committee was informed that, of the total of $17.4 million, $9.2 million related to consultants. **The Committee requests that, in future, proposals for consultants and expert groups be clearly and separately identified in the programme narratives.** The Committee recalls its previous recommendations that recourse to consultants be made only where the necessary expertise is not available in-house. **The Committee stresses the importance of strict adherence to General Assembly resolution 53/221 of 7 April 1999.** The observations of the Advisory Committee on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on consultants and the related comments of the Secretary-General (A/55/59 and Add.1) and the report of the Secretary-General on consultants and individual contractors (A/55/321) are contained in paragraphs 118 to 122 below.

D. Extrabudgetary resources

55. Estimates of extrabudgetary resources shown, for informational purposes, in the proposed programme budget account for a significant portion of United Nations expenditures. Table 16 shows that the bulk of extrabudgetary resources relate to UNHCR, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat).

Table 16
Estimated extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003

	Amount (Thousands of United States dollars)	*Percentage of total*
A. Programmes with separate governing bodies		
UNHCR	1 758 806.2	
UNRWA	749 688.0	
United Nations International Drug Control Programme	198 254.6	
UNEP	199 307.5	
Habitat	111 445.2	
Subtotal	**3 017 501.5**	**78.7**
B. Technical cooperation funds	363 410.2	9.5
C. Reimbursement for support/services provided	260 300.9	6.8
D. Substantive trust funds	193 196.9	5.0
Total	**3 834 409.5**	**100.0**

56. The Advisory Committee reviews and submits reports on the related administrative budgets to the governing bodies of the various programmes mentioned in sections A and B of table 16 (see Preface). For the most part, the Committee examines other extrabudgetary resources maintained in special accounts in the context of its review of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget. The Committee also receives information biannually on the status of trust funds. As indicated in paragraph 60 below, under the terms of section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 35/217 of 17 December 1980, the Committee considers proposals for all new posts at the D-1 level and above funded through extrabudgetary sources that are not otherwise subject to scrutiny by an intergovernmental body; **the Advisory Committee reiterates its position that all such extrabudgetary posts should be managed with the same degree of care as is exercised with regular budget posts**.

57. As shown in table 16, some $800 million in extrabudgetary resources relates to technical cooperation, reimbursement and trust funds. The Advisory Committee notes the trends outlined in paragraph 73 of the Introduction, as well as the statement that the level of extrabudgetary resources to be received during a biennium and the number of extrabudgetary posts to be funded cannot be determined with accuracy owing to the nature of voluntary contributions. The Committee has, during its consideration of the proposed programme budget, noted an inconsistency in the forecasting of levels of extrabudgetary funds in different programmes. The Committee has also noted inconsistencies throughout the budget in the provision of explanations of variations in extrabudgetary resources from one biennium to the next. **Steps should be taken to ensure the application of a uniform methodology for projection, as well as to improve forecasting techniques so as to arrive at more reliable projections in the future. The Committee recalls its previous recommendation in paragraph 58 of its first report on the proposed**

programme budget for 2000-2001[2] where the Committee called for the Secretary-General, wherever feasible, to provide broad explanations of variances in projected extrabudgetary resources. Care should also be taken to provide meaningful explanations of variations in extrabudgetary resources, both when comparing projections from one biennium to the next and when analysing the difference between projections and realized amounts.

58. **The Advisory Committee notes that its recommendation that summary requirement tables for each programme show percentages for regular budget and extrabudgetary resources has been implemented (see ibid., para. 58). The Committee also notes the designations "RB" (regular budget), "XB" (extrabudgetary) and "RB/XB" in the programme narratives. The Secretariat is encouraged to continue to refine the identification of the roles of the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources in funding the programme of work. The Committee also recalls and reiterates the observations and recommendations it made on the presentation of extrabudgetary resources in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999,[6] particularly in paragraphs 91-93 and 97.**

59. A summary of the number and grades of posts anticipated during the biennium 2002-2003 for extrabudgetary support services are provided in table 14 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget. It is estimated that extrabudgetary resources in 2002-2003 will finance a total of 7,580 extrabudgetary posts, as compared with 6,816 for 2000-2001. The total initially estimated for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 was 6,632. The Advisory Committee was informed that the total requirement for extrabudgetary posts included posts for support services and substantive activities (including posts financed from operational funds at established United Nations offices and those financed from the support account for peacekeeping operations). A breakdown of those posts by type of funds and a comparison of the estimated total for 2002-2003 with the total number in 2000-2001 is provided in table 17.

Table 17
Comparison of extrabudgetary posts for the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003

	Support services	*Substantive activities*	*Operational funds*	*Total*
Part I				
Overall policy-making, direction and coordination				
1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination				
2000-2001	4	-	-	4
2002-2003	4	-	-	4
2. General Assembly affairs and conference services				
2000-2001	92	11	-	103
2002-2003	94	11	-	105
Part II				
Political affairs				
4. Disarmament				
2000-2001	2	-	-	2
2002-2003	-	-	-	0
5. Peacekeeping operations				
2000-2001	442	19	-	461
2002-2003	442	19	-	461
Part III				
International justice and law				
8. Legal affairs				
2000-2001	18	-	-	18
2002-2003	18	-	-	18
Part IV				
International cooperation for development				
9. Economic and social affairs				
2000-2001	32	8	-	40
2002-2003	32	5	-	37
10. Africa: New Agenda for Development				
2000-2001	-	-	4	4
2002-2003	-	-	5	5
11. Trade and development				
2000-2001	19	-	9	28
2002-2003	18	-	9	27
12. Environment				
2000-2001	47	401	19	467
2002-2003	56	431	14	501
13. Human settlements				
2000-2001	24	48	30	102
2002-2003	51	48	9	108

	Support services	*Substantive activities*	*Operational funds*	*Total*
14. Crime prevention and criminal justice				
2000-2001	-	12	5	17
2002-2003	-	9	4	13
15. International drug control				
2000-2001	14	222	63	299
2002-2003	14	222	60	296
Part V				
Regional cooperation for development				
16. Economic and social development in Africa				
2000-2001	37	-	13	50
2002-2003	39	-	20	59
17. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific				
2000-2001	43	-	11	54
2002-2003	46	-	3	49
18. Economic development in Europe				
2000-2001	2	-	3	5
2002-2003	2	-	3	5
19. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean				
2000-2001	20	18	-	38
2002-2003	18	-	16	34
20. Economic and social development in Western Asia				
2000-2001	-	-	11	11
2002-2003	-	-	1	1
Part VI				
Human rights and humanitarian affairs				
22. Human rights				
2000-2001	15	16	2	33
2002-2003	23	30	8	61
23. Protection of and assistance to refugees				
2000-2001	-	-	4 108	4 108
2002-2003	-	-	4 791	4 791
24. Palestine refugees				
2000-2001	-	-	14	14
2002-2003	-	-	14	14
25. Humanitarian assistance				
2000-2001	43	165	160	368
2002-2003	42	177	178	397

	Support services	*Substantive activities*	*Operational funds*	*Total*
Part VII				
Public information				
26. Public information				
2000-2001	-	12	-	12
2002-2003	-	12	-	12
Part VIII				
Common support services				
27. Management and central support services				
A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management				
2000-2001	16	-	-	16
2002-2003	16	-	-	16
B. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts				
2000-2001	115	6	-	121
2002-2003	115	6	-	121
C. Office of Human Resources Management				
2000-2001	25	-	-	25
2002-2003	24	-	-	24
D. Office of Central Support Services				
2000-2001	68	13	-	81
2002-2003	68	13	-	81
E. Administration, Geneva				
2000-2001	75	-	-	75
2002-2003	82	-	-	82
G. Administration, Nairobi				
2000-2001	199	-	-	199
2002-2003	188	-	-	188
Part IX				
Internal oversight				
28. Internal oversight				
2000-2001	61	-	-	61
2002-2003	70	-	-	70
Total				
2000-2001	**1 413**	**951**	**4 452**	**6 816**
2002-2003	**1 462**	**983**	**5 135**	**7 580**

60. In accordance with the terms of section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 35/217, the Advisory Committee, since submitting its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, has concurred (twice) with requests by the Secretary-General concerning a D-1 post for gender mainstreaming, which has been extended until 31 December 2001. The recommendations of the Committee concerning the future treatment of this post can be found in chapter II, part IV, below.

E. Other matters

1. Extent of involvement of specialized bodies in the planning and programming process

61. As stated by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 81 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989,[7] the implementation of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation calls for greater involvement of the specialized bodies in the planning and programming process; the work of such bodies in this area affects the programme of activities that forms the basis of the medium-term plan and, in turn, the programme budget. In this connection, the Committee was provided with a list of specialized bodies and the period during which they reviewed their programmes of work for 2002-2003 (see table 18).

Table 18
Budget sections for which the programme of work for 2002-2003 has been reviewed by specialized bodies

Section	*Programme subprogramme*	*Reviewing body*	*Time of review*
6.	Peaceful uses of outer space	Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	June 2001
7.	International Court of Justice	Budgetary and Administrative Committee of the Court	December 2000-2001
9.	Economic and social affairs		
	Gender issues and advancement of women	Commission on the Status of Women	March 2001
	Social policy and development	Commission on Social Development	February 2001
	Population	Commission on Population and Development	April 2001
	Statistics	Statistical Commission	March 2001
	Sustainable development	Commission on Sustainable Development	April 2001
11.	Trade and development	Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget	January 2001 June 2001
12.	Environment	Government Council of UNEP	February 2001
13.	Human settlements	Commission on Human Settlements	February 2001
14.	Crime control	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	May 2001
15.	International drug control	Commission on Narcotic Drugs	March 2001
16.	Economic and social development in Africa	Economic Commission for Africa Conference of Ministers	May 2001
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	April 2001
18.	Economic development in Europe	Group of Experts on the Programme of Work	November 2000
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	April 2000
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	May 2001
21.	Department of Public Information	Committee on Information	May 2001

62. **The Advisory Committee notes that the work programmes under sections 4 and 22 have not been considered by intergovernmental organs. The Committee urges that steps be taken to ensure such consideration.**

2. Efficiency measures

63. Information on efficiency measures is given in paragraphs 53-58 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget as well as in the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (A/56/82). **The Advisory Committee concurs with the view expressed in paragraph 57 of the Introduction that efficiency measures and performance measurement do not necessarily yield immediate savings and that sometimes efficiency measures require new investment, particularly in information technology.**

64. The Advisory Committee notes the information on procurement reform contained in the report of the Secretary-General on review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (A/56/82, paras. 12 and 13); the Committee will revert to the matter in the context of the report on progress in procurement reform to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. The Committee also notes developments in incorporating certain parts of human resources processing work into the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS), as well as measures to streamline the processing of travel claims, the disposal of property, the pooling of investments and the development of an automated correspondence log system (see ibid., paras. 15-19).

65. Delegation of authority and accountability are briefly mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (ibid., para. 20). The Advisory Committee has commented on this in a number of areas in chapter II below, particularly under part VIII. The Committee will make further observations and recommendations when it considers the Secretary-General's report on the subject to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

3. Collective responsibility and accountability

66. These matters are described in paragraphs 15-16 and 39-42 of the annex to the Introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

67. **With regard to collective responsibility, while the Advisory Committee agrees with the statement of the Secretary-General in paragraph 15 of the annex to the Introduction, it is of the opinion that the regular budget of the Organization cannot be the vehicle through which the international community can assess its own success or failure in any given area (see para. 11 above). The United Nations regular budget is concerned mainly with the delivery of services. The objectives described in the budget should reflect this — they should be capable of being achieved by the Secretariat within a set time frame, and progress in doing so should be measurable against specific benchmarks. Moreover, if objectives and expected accomplishments are treated in such a manner, the opportunity for Secretariat officials to claim "external factors" as an excuse for failure will be diminished.**

68. **As for accountability, the Advisory Committee, in its report on results-based budgeting (A/55/543, para. 24 (b)), while indicating that procedures**

needed to be established to incorporate the information that results-based performance measurement would yield, cautioned that rule 107.3 (e) of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning should be respected. With regard to the link between accountability and results-based budgeting, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to explain, in the context of his forthcoming interim report on progress made regarding the collection of performance data for the indicators of achievement (see para. 15 above), the progress achieved and further measures contemplated to hold programme managers accountable to him for programme delivery, taking into account his statement in his report on accountability and responsibility (A/55/270, paras. 11-13).

4. Publications

69. The Advisory Committee has commented extensively on United Nations publications. For example, the Committee reported on United Nations publications in the context of a report of the Joint Inspection Unit (see A/51/946) and the related comments of the Secretary-General (A/52/685) (see A/53/609). Those documents were the subject of General Assembly resolution 54/259 of 7 April 2000. The Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001[2] contains extensive comments on publications and printing (paras. 69-77). Among other things, it expressed concern about the passivity of the Publications Board, the delay in the publication of official documents and the limited use of electronic media for United Nations publications. **These concerns remain valid, and they are referred to in greater detail in chapter II below.**

70. The Advisory Committee also recalls the information contained in paragraph 73 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, wherein it indicated that it had been informed that the issuance of publications in all official languages, suspended in the middle of 1995 owing to financial constraints, had been resumed, and that the decision on what to publish and in which languages was a matter for the author departments and the Publications Board. **The Committee trusts that such decisions will be fully responsive to the language needs of targeted audiences so as to achieve the most effective means of disseminating the various publications (see also chapter II, section 20 below). The Committee requests that, for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, there be an indication of which languages each publication will be issued in.**

71. **In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, there is little evidence in the proposed programme budget that the publications programme receives rigorous examination by the intergovernmental machinery. The Committee has called for such examination in the past; it is hoped that the introduction of results-based budgeting will eventually facilitate such consideration.**

72. **To that end, and with the introduction of results-based budgeting, it is essential for managers to demonstrate that each publication, recurrent or non-recurrent, is linked to the attainment of expected accomplishments; otherwise, consideration should be given to appropriately modifying or dispensing with the publication.**

73. **In order to assist in future evaluations of the publications programme and to start the process of formulating a cost-accounting system, the Advisory**

Committee recommends that a pilot project based on best business practices be carried out. This project, using one or several publications of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, would cost their means of preparation, production and dissemination so as to arrive at an evaluation of cost-effectiveness.

74. The purpose of such a project would be to determine the feasibility of a cost-accounting exercise for publications. Such an exercise would allow decision makers, whether they be in the Secretariat or in intergovernmental bodies, to determine whether the cost of a publication in terms of financial resources and staff time is justified by the contribution that the publication makes to the achievement of stated objectives. (In this connection, see also chapter II, Income section 3, below.) The cost accounting would cover not only the expense of publication and dissemination, but of drafting as well. For this latter element, the Committee stresses that it is not necessary to establish a cumbersome and expensive system of measurement. Rather, a simple, common-sense approach should be used to estimate staff time and/or the cost of consultants devoted to the creation of the publication in question.

75. As stated above, the information produced through cost accounting is ultimately intended to ensure that the publications programme is cost-effective, taking into account the targeted audience for each publication. To this end, using a technically sound cost-accounting system for publications, it should be incumbent on the Secretary-General to report in the proposed programme budget on actions he has taken vis-à-vis publications that have originated through Secretariat initiatives and to propose remedial actions, if necessary, to the relevant intergovernmental bodies in respect of publications that have originated through legislative action.

76. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the resources released by discontinuing publications should not in any way lead to a reduction of resources for programmes; rather, such resources should be redirected to other priority areas of the programme of work, and such redeployment should be indicated in the proposed budget estimates. Furthermore, the programmes concerned should have a stake in the efficient production and dissemination of their publications. To this end, a system should be devised by which programmes can benefit from the success of their sales activities. This would serve as an incentive for further progress in this area; at the same time, care should be taken to avoid an overemphasis on this activity merely to raise revenue. The Secretary-General should report on the development of such measures in the context of the next proposed programme budget.

77. In paragraph 6 above, the Advisory Committee requests summary information on publications for each relevant section. In addition, the Secretariat should maintain information on the type of publication (parliamentary or not, recurrent or not), and the frequency with which they are issued.

78. The Advisory Committee further requests that in future the Secretariat indicate with whom it cooperates in the production of recurrent and non-recurrent publications, whether within the United Nations or with the specialized agencies and partners outside the United Nations system; for example, information should be given on the role played by the International

Labour Organization or the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other institutions for publications on employment matters and poverty reduction. Such information should be given separately to the Committee when it examines the estimates.

5. Cooperation with other United Nations bodies

79. Since the issuance of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, the Advisory Committee has submitted reports to the following United Nations bodies:

(a) Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on the budget estimates of UNDP for the biennium 2000-2001 (DP/1999/33);

(b) Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the biennial support budget for 2000-2001 (E/ICEF/1999/AB/L.10);

(c) Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA on the estimates for the biennial support budget for 2000-2001 for the United Nations Population Fund (DP/FPA/1999/14);

(d) Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1998-1999 and budget estimates for the biennium 2000-2001 for the United Nations Office for Project Services (DP/1999/41);

(e) Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme of UNHCR on the annual programme budget for 2000 (A/AC.96/916/Add.2);

(f) Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP) on the Programme's biennial budget for 2000-2001, on the progress report on the implementation of the external auditor's recommendations (1996-1997) and on the funding of WFP after-service medical liabilities (WFP/EB.3/99/3 (A,B,C)/2);

(g) Advisory Commission of UNRWA on the proposed budget for the biennium 2000-2001;

(h) Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the proposed final biennial support budget for 1998-1999 and the proposed initial biennial budget for 2000-2001 of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (E/CN.7/1999/20);

(i) Council of the United Nations University (UNU) on the proposed academic programme and budget of UNU for the biennium 2000-2001 (UNU/C/46/L.5/Add.1);

(j) Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on the Institute's draft work programme and proposed budget for 2000;

(k) Governing Council of UNEP on the budget mock-up;

(l) Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA on the comprehensive revision of the financial regulations and rules of UNDP (DP/2000/7);

(m) Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA on the administrative and operational support costs reimbursed to UNFPA and revision of UNFPA financial regulations (DP/FPA/2000/5);

(n) Executive Board of the WFP on the report on WFP chartered flight KSV 3275 to Kosovo (WFP/EB.1/2000/3/2);

(o) Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on the Institute's programme budget for 2000;

(p) Executive Board of UNICEF on the multi-year funding framework: securing adequate resources to achieve the medium-term plan priorities, and proposed modifications to the budget process (E/ICEF/2000/AB/L.4);

(q) Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 2000-2001 and responsibility of the United Nations Office for Project Services in personnel matters (DP/2000/38);

(r) Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme on the UNHCR annual programme budget for 2001 (A/AC.96/932/Add.1);

(s) Executive Board of WFP on the report on budgetary performance for 1998-1999, audited biennial accounts for 1998-1999 and strengthening the management capacity of WFP (WFP/EB.3/2000/4 (A,B,D)/2);

(t) Commission on Human Settlements on the proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 2002-2003 (HS/C/18/9/Add.1);

(u) Governing Council of UNEP on the UNEP proposed programme and support budget for 2002-2003 (UNEP/GC.21/6/Add.1);

(v) Board of Trustees of UNIDIR on the Institute's draft work programme and proposed budget for 2001;

(w) Executive Board of UNICEF on the establishment of an operational reserve (E/ICEF/2001/AB/L.4);

(x) Advisory Commission of UNRWA on the amendments to the UNRWA financial regulations;

(y) Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the proposed revised biennial support and programme budget of the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme for 2000-2001 and the proposed outline for 2002-2003 (E/CN.7/2001/10 and Corr.1);

(z) Executive Board of WFP on the WFP budgetary performance report for 2000; the strategic and financial plan (2002-2005); amendments to the WFP financial regulations on the operational reserve; report of the Executive Director on the utilization and contributions and waivers of costs; and the cash management report (WFP/EB.A/2001/5 (A,B,C,D,E)/2).

6. Information technology in the Secretariat: a plan of action

80. In paragraphs 63 to 70 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General provides information on major developments in information technology in the Secretariat and, on the basis of his

report entitled "Information technology in the Secretariat: a plan of action", the Secretary-General identifies five areas of information (see A/55/780, paras. 91-146).

81. The Advisory Committee points out that the report of the Secretary-General in which he presents the information technology strategy of the Secretariat as a whole, was prepared in response to repeated calls by the Committee to assess the state of knowledge of information technology in the Secretariat and to prepare a technology strategy and a plan for its implementation.[8]

82. The Advisory Committee was informed that the report of the Secretary-General was prepared after extensive consultations with departments at Headquarters and with offices away from Headquarters.

83. In section II of his report, the Secretary-General briefly describes the status of technology in the Secretariat. It confirms the validity of the previous comments of the Advisory Committee, namely, that even though progress has been achieved in the usage of information and communication technologies, there has not been full knowledge about the status of such technologies within the Secretariat, and hence it has not been possible to articulate a coherent strategy and related implementation plans throughout the Secretariat and its main duty stations (see A/55/780, paras. 4-13).

84. The Advisory Committee is in broad agreement with the approach to the management of activities related to information and communication technologies in the Secretariat, as described in the report (ibid., para. 16 (b)), namely:

> "While maintaining a decentralized approach to meet the specific programmatic requirements of all departments, central support and common objectives will be established and departmental plans and efforts will be coordinated. A central policy direction and a flexible mechanism for consultation, research, standardization and implementation of policy objectives will be put in place".

85. **The Advisory Committee stresses, however, that successful implementation of the proposals outlined in the report will require effective central leadership for policy, strategic guidance and standard setting as well as the commitment of departmental heads to implement central decisions at the operational level.** In this connection, the Committee notes that information and communication technology governance will comprise, in addition to the Steering Committee on Reform and Management Policy, an Information and Communication Technology Board at Headquarters with its departmental focal points and local committees at offices away from Headquarters. The role and function of these elements are described in the report (ibid., paras. 55-64).

86. **The Advisory Committee points out, in this connection, that the experience of past technological boards and committees is not very encouraging. The Committee trusts that the Steering Committee and the Information and Communication Technology Board will develop into effective policy-setting instruments that can establish and monitor clear, unambiguous guidelines.**

87. The Advisory Committee recalls its observations in paragraphs VIII.44 and VIII.45 of its first report on the programme budget for 2000-2001,[2] and welcomes the fact that IMIS and information technology services are now joined in one

organizational unit — the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services. **The Committee is of the view that the Division must be staffed with qualified individuals capable of providing technical guidance and support throughout the Secretariat on technology and infrastructure development and support standards; within the framework of the information and communication technology governance mechanism outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, the head of the Division should, in a way, act as a chief information and communication technology officer of the United Nations.**

88. **On a related matter, the Advisory Committee shares the view of the Secretary-General (see A/55/780, para. 16 (d)) on the importance of recruitment and retention of qualified staff with specialized skills in information technology, equipped to deal with the rapidly evolving environment in that field.** The Committee also notes from the report that that field is the one in which the Secretariat competes most with the private sector worldwide for the recruitment and retention of qualified human resources and that a number of countries have created special conditions of service for such staff (ibid., para. 78). The Committee recalls, in this connection, that in its report on the IMIS project, it suggested that the General Assembly might wish to consider and give further guidelines concerning the question of establishing special occupational rates for United Nations staff in the information technology field (A/54/7/Add.4, para. 10). The Committee sought an update on the implementation of the provisions of section II.E, Special occupational rates, of General Assembly resolution 47/216 of 23 December 1992 and was informed that the International Civil Service Commission would be submitting recommendations on this matter to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

89. Table 8 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget contains information on the main categories of information technology resources, which are estimated at a total of $148.1 million (before recosting). **The Advisory Committee is of the view that investments in information technology should result in tangible increases in efficiency and productivity that could lead to an eventual reduction in requests for staff in support services; resources so released could be available for redeployment. Moreover, the Committee points out that information on the progress and impact of information technology is emerging as an important management tool in United Nations activities (see also chapter II, section 27D, below).**

90. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/780, para. 14), the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 was prepared before the strategy was defined and reflects only the known requirements already identified within each department, subsequent resource requirements that may not be accommodated through the redeployment of existing resources will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly separately. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that this is a serious weakness in the report of the Secretary-General — lack of financial information on what would be required in the short and long term to implement the strategy and the time frame for it. In the final analysis, the greater emphasis on information technology that is called for will have to be reflected in a matching increase in the human and financial resources devoted to it. This is not visible at the moment. The Committee requests that a comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the information technology strategy be prepared for the fifty-seventh session of the**

Assembly in conjunction with the proposed programme budget; the report should also encompass peacekeeping information systems under the auspices of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

91. Concerning the issue of sharing of information worldwide (see ibid., paras. 39-54), the Advisory Committee observes that major tools in facilitating the access to information by departments and offices away from Headquarters would be a unique United Nations web site as a portal to all official documentation and a new state-of-the-art optical disk system. **It is the view of the Committee that for the successful development of these tools more attention needs to be devoted to system-wide coherence and coordination, which does not appear to be sufficient at present. Moreover, in preparing information technology strategy or actions, the requirements of Member States as "internal end-users" must be kept in mind.**

92. In connection with an integrated search engine for the United Nations web site (see ibid., para. 35), **the Advisory Committee points out that an essential element is the urgent need for search engines capable of quickly retrieving documents on the basis of key words**.

93. The Advisory Committee notes that the lack of effective coordination of information and communication technology activities has made it difficult to enforce and develop standard methodologies and implement enterprise-wide systems (ibid., para. 65). **The Committee points out that such lack of coordination has created a situation in which various systems of the Secretariat were developed as stand-alone systems and that they do not allow the exchange and transfer of data.** For example, the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which is used in the preparation of the programme aspects of the proposed programme budget, is not linked to other information systems, such as IMIS or the budgetary information system (BIS). Moreover, the Committee observes that although the Secretary-General's report appears to stress the need to integrate systems and to exchange and merge data between systems (see ibid., paras. 69-70), it is stated in paragraph 21 of the annex to the Introduction that there is no intention of linking IMDIS to IMIS or BIS. **The Committee has requested, in this connection, that a review of the issue of linking these systems be conducted and that its results be included in the comprehensive progress report referred to in paragraph 90 above.**

94. **In view of the risk that costly, incompatible and duplicative systems will proliferate among the United Nations funds and programmes, the Advisory Committee is of the view that collaborative efforts should be enhanced in order to adapt IMIS to the needs of field and country offices and peacekeeping operations wherever possible (see also A/55/7/Add.8, para. 12).**

7. Progress in the implementation of the field assets control system: a module of the field mission logistics system

95. The report of the Secretary-General on progress in the implementation of the field assets control system (A/55/845) was submitted in accordance with requests of the Advisory Committee (see A/54/801, para. 21, and A/54/841, para. 38).

96. The Advisory Committee welcomes the report and commends the Secretary-General for the progress achieved. The Committee notes that the field assets control system has been installed and is operational in the first 30 of the 34 missions listed

in annex VII to the report and that more than 800 personnel in the missions have been trained to use the system. **In this connection, the Committee requests that steps be taken to ensure that there are personnel in all the services of missions who are qualified to use and maintain the system; this would avoid disruptions resulting from the frequent rotation of military and civilian staff.**

97. The current status of the field mission logistics system, and the functionalities of the inter-linked subsystems, of which the field assets control system is one of the modules, are summarized in section IV of the report. The Advisory Committee notes that the feasibility of building interfaces between the field assets control system and other major systems in the field (the field personnel management system, Reality, ProGen and Sun Accounts) is being considered (ibid., paras. 62-63). Reality runs on an obsolete operating system platform, which is no longer supported by the vendor as from December 2000. The Committee enquired about the implication of this and about steps being taken to address the issues raised in paragraphs 62-63 of the report of the Secretary-General.

98. In this regard, the Committee was informed that the following projects were currently under way:

(a) *The Galaxy Project.* This project constitutes a partnership between the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to design, develop, implement and manage a Web-enabled workflow system encompassing the field missions' applications processing, recruitment, appointment, post management and roster management functions. The project, which is system-wide in scope, would develop a bridge into the IMIS system. The intention is to deliver Release 1 of the Galaxy software to the Office of Human Resources Management by the end of July 2001 for intensive testing prior to final handover and implementation by the end of August. Release 1(a) of the product for the Personnel Management and Support Service is intended for delivery by the end of December 2001, with implementation envisaged for the end of March 2002;

(b) *E-STARS (electronic storage, tracking and archival system).* This information management system, as its name suggests, is being developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in order to fully support its managerial responsibilities and administrative tasks and to serve as a key component of the Department's institutional memory. The system, currently launched as a pilot project in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, is intended to be launched next in the Department's Personnel Management and Support Service, then in other units within the Department and in peacekeeping missions, within a time frame of 1 May 2001 to 31 January 2003;

(c) *Mercury Procurement System.* This system, intended for use in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and all peacekeeping missions, is to replace the Reality procurement system, using its current functionalities as a base and taking into consideration the procurement processes of the United Nations. The system is currently being developed under the auspices of the information technology section of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, using in-house systems development expertise. A prototype of the system is to be made available to the Procurement Division of the Department of Management, and the first release is scheduled to be available in January 2002.

99. The Advisory Committee is convinced that the field assets control system is an important tool for the management of inventory assets of the Organization and requests that a review be made to ascertain whether aspects of the system could be used in the management of the inventory of the rest of the assets of the Organization. The Committee is also of the view that, as part of the further enhancement of the functionalities of the field mission logistics system and the field assets control system, priority should be given to developing a capacity to electronically archive records of missions inventory that has been liquidated. In this regard, closer cooperation must exist between the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Archives and Records Management Section in the Office of Central Support Services (sect. 27D). This could be considered in the context of E-STARS.

100. The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that adequate maintenance should be provided for and that further development, in keeping with changes in technology, should be envisaged in order to ensure the effectiveness of the assets control system. As indicated in its report on the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/55/874, para. 54), the Committee trusts that proper use of the field assets control system, including ensuring that it is complete, continuously updated and accurately maintained, would result in better control of United Nations property in peacekeeping missions and, as a consequence, would minimize the loss of United Nations inventory assets.

101. The Advisory Committee notes that, as shown in the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/845, para. 67), current resources within the Field Mission Logistics Unit involved in the development and deployment of the field assets control system include four Professional (1 P-4, 3 P-3) and two General Service staff. The Committee recalls that the Secretary-General had requested an additional two Professional and two General Service posts in his report on resource requirements for the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/507/Add.1, para. 5.65 (b)). Consideration of this request was deferred until the submission in 2001 of the results of the comprehensive review of the management structure, recruitment processes and interrelationships of all relevant elements playing a role in peacekeeping operations within the Secretariat.

102. However, the Advisory Committee notes the plan to outsource specific maintenance and support activities while retaining overall planning and coordination of the whole project within the Field Mission Logistics Unit, Communications and Electronic Services Section, of the Field Administration and Logistics Division (A/55/845, para. 66). The Committee recalls that a provision of $750,000 was requested and approved to cover those costs in the context of implementing the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/507/Add.1, para. 5.15(c)), as well as a provision of $1,500,000, in the context of the support account for the period from 1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002 (A/55/862, para. 56).

8. Proposal for enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors

103. The Advisory Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on proposals for enhancing the United Nations experience for visitors (A/55/835). According to the Secretary-General, the proposal outlined in the report is aimed at modernizing and improving the experience of visitors to United Nations

Headquarters. It envisages the construction of new visitors' facilities at the 47th Street entrance, which is to be linked to the General Assembly building by an underground path, and the introduction of an interactive multimedia programme of exhibits.

104. The report of the Secretary-General was prepared at the end of the conceptual phase (ibid., para. 51). Future steps to be taken, should the General Assembly decide to implement the project, are described in paragraphs 52 to 54 of the report. **The Advisory Committee emphasizes, in this connection, that all steps to be taken during the various phases of the project with regard to proposals to be submitted to the Assembly through the Committee should follow the procedures outlined in the report of the Advisory Committee contained in document A/36/643. The Committee points out that, at this stage, the proposals are still very general. The comments and observations of the Committee that follow are thus preliminary and subject to such decisions as the Assembly may take on the conceptual proposal of the Secretary-General.**

105. The new visitors' experience project is linked to the development of the Secretary-General's proposal on the capital master plan (see A/55/835, para. 2). **The Advisory Committee points out that the nature of that link is not spelled out. The Committee stresses the need for close coordination of the two projects should the General Assembly approve them.**

106. The Advisory Committee notes that the capital cost of the proposed new visitors' experience would be entirely funded from private sources. The full cost of constructing a new pavilion building, including an underground link to the General Assembly building, fitting it out and purchasing essential equipment required for an interactive multimedia programme of United Nations exhibits, is estimated by the Secretary-General to range from $50 million to $60 million (ibid., para. 3). The Secretary-General proposes that the construction would be funded by the United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA/USA) and, subject to the Assembly's approval, the new facilities would be accepted by the Organization in the form of a voluntary in-kind contribution from UNA/USA (see ibid., para. 8).

107. The acceptance of the in-kind contribution from UNA/USA would be subject to the following conditions: (a) the design of the pavilion would preserve the international character and nature of the Organization and would be subject to United Nations approval; (b) the construction would be in harmony with existing United Nations buildings and facilities; (c) the construction specifications and construction materials would meet or exceed the quality standards established by the United Nations; and (d) it would not result in commercialization of the premises (ibid., para. 20). **The Advisory Committee stresses the importance of these conditions and trusts that the dignity and image of the United Nations will be maintained and not be compromised through commercialization. While welcoming the interest of UNA/USA, the Committee is of the view that in order to better reflect the international character of the Organization, efforts should be made to expand the number of potential contributors to the project by including United Nations associations of other countries. Similarly, advice on the project (see ibid., para. 50) should also be sought from other United Nations associations. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to report on this issue in the context of his next report on this matter.**

108. **Expanding the contribution base would also help to ensure that the target level of $50 million to $60 million is reached. The Advisory Committee stresses the necessity of obtaining firm commitments for the requisite level of funding before start-up so that when construction begins it is based on assured and attainable income.**

109. According to the Secretary-General, the operation and maintenance of the proposed new visitors' experience will be the responsibility of the United Nations (see ibid., paras. 31-47). The Advisory Committee observes that revenue for the Services to Visitors programme is projected at $15.8 million during the first biennium after the new visitors' experience is implemented, as compared with revenue of $5 million for the biennium 1998-1999 (see ibid., para. 34 and table 1). The increase in revenue is due mainly to the assumption that there will be a greater number of visitors to Headquarters and an increase in the number of visitors per guided tour, from the current 15 to 25 (however, see chapter II, Income section 3, below). After the project is completed, the number of visitors to United Nations Headquarters is projected to increase from 1.7 million for the biennium 1998-1999 to 2.7 million for the biennium 2004-2005, and the number of guided tour visitors would increase from 0.9 million to 2 million during the same periods (see ibid., chart II).

110. The Advisory Committee observes that expenditures on the Services to Visitors programme are projected to increase from $6.5 million in the biennium 1998-1999 to $15.3 million during the first biennium following the implementation of the new visitors' experience (see ibid., table 1). On the basis of testimony by the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee concluded that the expenditure, which reflects basically staff costs, utilities costs and maintenance of the space, is more or less fixed and will be difficult to quickly adjust should revenue decrease. **In the opinion of the Committee, this issue requires particular attention on the part of the Administration.**

111. Budgetary implications during the construction period and prior to the opening of the new visitors' experience are estimated by the Secretary-General at $1.6 million, of which $1.0 million is a one-time cost of engaging additional personnel prior to the opening and $0.6 million is the start-up cost of a sustained advertising campaign of six months' duration prior to the opening of the new visitors' experience (see ibid., paras. 44-45). **In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the possibilities of securing public service advertising at a minimal cost to the Organization should be explored.**

112. According to the Secretary-General, increased maintenance and operational costs for the new pavilion building will arise over time. To help defray such costs, the Secretary-General considers that it would be prudent for Member States to consider establishing a visitors' experience capital improvement fund through the retention of an amount equivalent to 20 per cent of gross revenues (but not more than $3.5 million) directly associated with the new visitors' experience (see ibid., paras. 46-47). **While the Advisory Committee has no objection in principle to the fund, it is concerned that deficits may nevertheless arise and become a potential burden to the Organization. The Committee is therefore of the view that careful consideration should also be given to the way in which this operation is managed, if it is approved by the General Assembly. Should a fund be established, the Committee requests that, pursuant to the financial**

regulations, the rules governing the replenishment, operation and management of the fund be submitted to it for review in conjunction with the final proposals for the project.

113. **Should the General Assembly decide to approve the concept of the new visitors' experience, the Advisory Committee requests that a formal agreement be entered into between the Secretary-General and UNA/USA, setting out in full what is expected of the parties. As appropriate, agreements should also be concluded between the United Nations and such other associations as may participate in the project. The agreements should be submitted to the Committee before final signature.**

9. Proposed measures to improve the profitability of the commercial activities of the United Nations

114. See chapter II, income section 3, below.

10. Implementation of projects financed from the Development Account

115. See chapter II, section 33, below.

11. Young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention

116. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on young professionals in selected organizations of the United Nations system: recruitment, management and retention (see A/55/798) is a valuable contribution to the debate on the best means of adopting a realistic personnel management and planning strategy for the rejuvenation of the Secretariat. The Committee notes that the general comments of the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the report (A/55/798/Add.1, paras. 1-6) refer to the need to take account of different approaches in the United Nations system that are dictated by the requirements of each organization for particular skills and experience to implement mandates decided upon by Member States.

117. The Advisory Committee takes note of the comments of the Secretary-General and recalls that when he introduced the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 to the Committee, he indicated his strong commitment to this aspect of the United Nations personnel process. **The Committee notes, however, that no mention is made of the issue of rejuvenation among the outputs to be delivered by the Office of Human Resources Management during the biennium 2002-2003. This is particularly surprising in view of the growing importance of information technology and of the obvious expertise of young professionals in this field. In this connection, the Committee draws attention to the comments contained in its report on human resources management reform, accountability and responsibility, personnel practices and policies and management irregularities (A/55/499, para. 5). The Committee expects the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the issue in the context of his report on personnel policy to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.**

12. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the use of consultants in the United Nations and report of the Secretary-General on consultants and individual contractors

118. The Advisory Committee welcomes the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the use of consultants (see A/55/59), which has been the focus of several previous Joint Inspection Unit reports (see ibid., Introduction).

119. The Advisory Committee notes from table 5 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 that requirements for consultants and experts are estimated at $16,750,100 before recosting, which reflects a decrease of $1,261,500 compared with the appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001. The Committee's comments and recommendations on requirements for consultants are reflected, as appropriate, under the respective budget sections in chapter II below.

120. A number of the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit concern geographical balance for consultancy. The Secretary-General, in his comments on the report, points out that to apply the desirable ranges as a norm of the geographical distribution of consultants would not only necessitate increases in budgetary allocation, primarily for anticipated increases in travel costs, but would also exacerbate delays in various types of programme/project execution due to restrictions based strictly in the desirable range principle (A/55/59/Add.1, para. 12). **Although the geographical mix of consultants is always an important consideration, the Advisory Committee takes note of the observation of the Secretary-General and questions the utility of using desirable ranges in procuring this type of expertise.**

121. With regard to recommendation number 2 of the Joint Inspection Unit and the related comments of the Secretary-General (see A/55/59, para. 51, and A/55/59/Add.1, para. 8), the Advisory Committee is of the view that the treatment in the Introduction to the proposed programme budget of proposals for consultants should be the same as that for all other objects of expenditure.

122. The Advisory Committee had also before it a report of the Secretary-General on consultants and individual contractors for 1999 (A/55/321), submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/221. **The Committee points out in this connection that the weaknesses identified in its previous report on this matter (see A/53/691, para. 15) largely persist. Firstly, there is yet to be established a system for accurate data collection, analysis and reporting on consultants and contractors. In the view of the Committee, the current report of the Secretary-General is slightly better as far as Headquarters is concerned, where information can be easily obtained through IMIS. Data from offices away from Headquarters are less reliable (see A/55/321, para. 3). The installation of IMIS in those offices would facilitate the collection and analysis of data. There is also a need at the very beginning of a financial period to establish areas where consultancy will be required. Thus, the estimates in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 should have contained more precise information on requirements and full justification for outside expertise. This would be facilitated by the establishment of a viable inventory of skills in the Secretariat. The Committee urges the speedy completion of the much-delayed project to establish an inventory of skills; the experience of agencies, funds and**

programmes of the United Nations system should be taken into account in the course of developing and implementing the project.

13. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on delegation of authority

123. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the delegation of authority for management of human and financial resources in the United Nations Secretariat has been considered by the Fifth Committee, and the General Assembly endorsed its recommendations in its decision 55/481 of 14 June 2001. In section VII of its resolution 55/258 of the same date, which concerns the delegation of authority and accountability, the Assembly endorsed the views and recommendations of the Committee as contained in its report on human resources management reform (A/55/499, paras. 22-23). The Committee makes additional comments on delegation of authority in chapter II, part VIII, below.

14. Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the United Nations system common services at Geneva

124. See chapter II, section 27 E, below.

15. Review of the management and administration in the Registry of the International Court of Justice

125. See chapter II, section 7, below.

16. Enhancing the internal oversight mechanisms in operational funds and programmes

126. See chapter II, part IX, below.

17. Standards of accommodation for air travel

127. The report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/55/488) covers the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000. The Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Secretary-General, covering the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/54/382). The reports were submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 44/442 of 21 December 1989 and 46/450 of 20 December 1991, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit annual reports on standards of accommodation for air travel. The reports also contain information on expenditure by the United Nations for first-class air travel and on the meetings attended by eminent persons for whom exceptions have been made for first-class air travel, as requested by the Assembly in its decision 40/455 of 18 December 1985 and section XIII of its resolution 45/248 A of 21 December 1990.

128. The Advisory Committee noted that during the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, the Secretary-General authorized 76 exceptions to standards of air travel (46 cases of first-class and 30 cases of business-class travel); the total additional costs incurred as a result of those exceptions amounted to $153,229 (see A/55/488, table 1).

129. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that further progress needs to be achieved by the Secretariat in implementing the Committee's recommendation that in future reports of the Secretary-General in which exceptions for first-**

class air travel by officials or eminent persons have been approved, the nature of the event being attended by the official or eminent person should be more clearly specified (see A/53/7/Add.10, para. 5).

18. Employment of retirees

130. The report of Secretary-General on employment of retirees (A/55/451) was submitted pursuant to paragraph (f) of General Assembly decision 51/408 of 4 November 1996, in which the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly every two years on all aspects of the use of retired personnel. The Secretary-General's report covers the biennium 1998-1999.

131. In its previous report on this issue, the Advisory Committee pointed to weaknesses in monitoring the hiring of retirees (see A/53/691, paras. 9-13). **It is the view of the Committee that the capacity for monitoring is still weak. IMIS has not yet been installed globally (see A/55/451, para. 6). The Committee trusts that with the installation of the IMIS at offices away from Headquarters, the next report of the Secretary-General will provide a better picture.**

132. The Office of Human Resources Management, as part of its monitoring and control function, has initiated a system of spot-check reviews to ensure compliance by individual departments and offices with the policy on employment of retirees as well as the regulations set forth in administrative instruction ST/AI/1999/5 and Corr.1. The Advisory Committee was not in a position to ascertain the effectiveness of the spot-check system (see also chap. II, sect. 27 C, below).

133. The Advisory Committee notes the Secretary-General's observations on the effect of the ceiling on annual earnings by retired staff of language services and his intention to continue monitoring the impact of the salary ceilings (A/55/451, paras. 18-21). As indicated, the ceiling on annual earnings for retirees means that a retired interpreter can be hired for only 105 days a year (see also chap. II, sect. 2 below). The Committee will submit its comments and recommendations in the context of the next biennial report of the Secretary-General in 2002.

134. The Advisory Committee notes that 51 per cent of retirees' engagements were for language services, 25 per cent were for administrative functions and 15 per cent were for political, economic, social, environmental, humanitarian, advisory and technical assistance functions. Nationals of 57 countries were engaged, 63 per cent of which came from 7 countries. Only nine engagements were made for the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (see ibid., paras. 22-28 and annex).

135. The Advisory Committee was informed that whenever a vacancy occurs, there is no dearth of new applicants. The Committee notes that 50,000 applications are projected for 720 vacancies at the Professional level and above during the biennium 2000-2001 and 70,000 applications are projected for 700 vacancies for such posts during the biennium 2002-2003 (see table A.27C.10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003). **The Committee points out that the General Assembly, in its resolution 55/258, has dealt with the Secretary-General's reform package. Therefore, programme managers should not use their inability to plan for vacancies and process applications in a timely manner as an excuse to engage retired personnel.**

19. *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* and *Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council*

136. The *Repertory* and *Repertoire* are discussed in paragraphs 91 to 94 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee previously commented on them in paragraphs III.15-III.16 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001.[2] In that report, the Committee indicated that it had sought, but had not received, information on the timeframe for the elimination of the backlog. It indicated that that information should be provided in the next proposed programme budget along with an explanation of measures taken to ensure effective coordination on the elimination of the backlog and to ensure timely production of future volumes.

137. In that connection, the Advisory Committee notes the report of the Secretary-General on the question (A/55/340) (see also para. 92 of the Introduction). The Office of Legal Counsel, as the coordinator for the preparation of the *Repertory*, is in the process of evaluating the adequacy of measures undertaken by various departments to produce *Repertory* volumes and the current production cycle. General temporary assistance resources specific to the *Repertory* amounting to $2.1 million (before recosting) have been proposed in the budget for 2002-2003 for work to produce the remaining volumes of Supplements 6 and 7 and for the commencement of Supplement 8, covering the period 1989-1994. The distribution of resource requirements among the Secretariat units responsible for preparing the *Repertory* is provided in the Introduction (see paras. 93 and 94 and related table). The Committee was informed that individuals taking part in this work, who are financed by general temporary assistance, must be highly skilled in the tasks to be carried out.

138. **The Advisory Committee intends to follow up on this matter. Accordingly, for each section of the proposed programme budget for 2003-2004, using, as a starting point, the allocation of general temporary assistance shown in the table following paragraph 94 of the Introduction, there should be an indication of the results achieved in the elimination of the backlog of the *Repertory*, as well as an indication of future measures to be taken and their cost.**

F. Overall position of the Advisory Committee on the initial estimates for the biennium 2002-2003

139. **As can be seen from the table following paragraph 15 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget, the difference (before recosting) between the estimates for 2002-2003 and the revised estimates for 2001-2002 amounts to a nominal decrease of $13.7 million. As such, the Advisory Committee has, except for proposals relating to new posts and reclassifications, refrained, in most cases, from making specific recommendations for reductions or additions, although, in chapter II below it points to a number of areas where one or the other is possible should the General Assembly so decide.**

140. **In the present chapter and in its detailed consideration in chapter II below, the Advisory Committee has directed many of its observations and recommendations at the major innovation in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 — the introduction of results-based budgeting. This represents the first fundamental change to the presentation of the budget**

since the introduction of programme budgeting in 1973, and its development must be managed with care. In this connection, the Committee recalls paragraphs 5 (b) and (c) of General Assembly resolution 53/205 of 18 December 1998 and paragraphs 27 and 28 of its own report on results-based budgeting (A/55/543).

141. **That being said, the Advisory Committee feels the need to reiterate, in large part, what it had stated in paragraphs 130-131 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001.[2] The Committee recalls the statement made to it by the Secretary-General on 7 May 2001 that "for a number of years now, the Secretariat has been expected to do more with less. The budget that I am submitting here is no exception. But I must add that adhering to such a course is becoming increasingly untenable and putting great strains on the Organization's ability to fulfil its mandates".**

Notes

[1] The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 (Introduction), A/56/6 (Sects. 1-33) and A/56/6 (Income sects. 1-3). The approved programme budget will subsequently be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Rev.1).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7).

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

[4] Ibid., *Supplement No. 5* (A/55/5), vol. I, chap. V.

[5] The decrease of $589,800 for consultants and experts shown in table 6 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is attributable to the deduction of non-recurrent items totalling $3.1 million, offset by the $2.1 million increase (see table 4 above) and the recosting to 2002-2003 rates.

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/52/7).

[7] Ibid., *Forty-second session, Supplement No. 7* (A/42/7).

[8] See, for example, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 7A* (A/50/7/Add.1-16), seventeenth report, para. 37; ibid., *Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/52/7/Rev.1), paras. VIII.80, VIII.94 and VIII.96; and ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7), paras. 83 and 84.

Chapter II

Detailed recommendations on the proposed programme budget

A. Estimates of expenditure

Part I
Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

I.1 Part I of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[1] covers section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination, and section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services. The total estimate of $495,130,100 for 2002-2003 represents the regular budget requirements for the biennium for sections 1 and 2 of the proposed programme budget.

Section 1
Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

I.2 The regular budget requirements under section 1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, which are summarized in table 1.2, are estimated at $47,318,600 before recosting, reflecting a decrease of $694,500, or 1.4 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of $48,013,100 for the biennium 2000-2001. The estimate consists of $19,965,500 for policy-making organs and $27,753,100 for executive direction and management. Extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $11,721,500. A breakdown of extrabudgetary resources is given in table A.1.1. As indicated in paragraph A.1.20, the majority of extrabudgetary resources relate to audit services for United Nations funds and programmes and for peacekeeping operations.

I.3 The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph A.1.3 of the proposed programme budget, that the overall reduction of $694,500 in the estimates for section 1 includes $294,700 related to non-recurrent costs for the travel of the representatives of least developed countries to special sessions of the General Assembly. However, in paragraph 2.7 of section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget, three special sessions are foreseen. **In the view of the Committee, the concept of non-recurrent costs is not appropriate in this context, as this type of expenditure is certain to recur, albeit in respect of different special sessions. The Committee requests that the Secretary-General take this into account when preparing the outline for the proposed programme budget (see also chap. I, para. 23, above).**

I.4 As indicated in table 1.3 of the proposed programme budget, post requirements for the section for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at 143, an increase of 4 over the previous biennium.

I.5 The Advisory Committee notes that, owing to the fact that section 1 is not programmed in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005,[2] results-based budgeting has not been applied. **Nevertheless, in future, these estimates should be justified more clearly in terms of workload.**

I.6 The Advisory Committee notes that, in accordance with its recommendation and paragraph 74 of General Assembly resolution 54/249 of 23 December 1999, resources proposed for support to the presidents of the Assembly are presented separately from the estimates for the travel of representatives of least developed countries to the sessions of the Assembly. As shown in table 1.4, of the provision of $2,075,800 for the General Assembly, an amount of $1,451,000 relates to the travel of representatives, $516,400 relates to the requirements of the presidents of the Assembly and $108,400 relates to direct support provided by the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services to the presidents of the Assembly.

I.7 The Advisory Committee recalls paragraph I.9 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[3] in which it requested that the Secretariat ensure that least developed countries are duly informed of their entitlement before the start of the General Assembly each year. The Committee notes from paragraph A.1.3 of the proposed programme budget that, for the year 2000, 96 per cent of the least developed countries availed themselves of their entitlements to travel to the regular sessions of the Assembly as compared with the 73.3 per cent assumed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The Committee was informed that, as a consequence, no discount factor had been applied to the estimate for 2002-2003 for travel of representatives of least developed countries to regular sessions. With regard to travel of those representatives to special sessions, the Committee was informed that, when decisions are made to hold such meetings, the related costs are submitted by the Secretary-General to the Assembly in statements of programme budget implications.

I.8 As indicated in table A.1.9 and paragraphs A.1.4-A.1.8 of the proposed programme budget, estimated requirements for support to the presidents of the General Assembly for the biennium 2002-2003 total $516,400 before recosting. **The Advisory Committee points out that resources for the Office of the President are to be allocated among three presidents of the Assembly for a minimum of three regular sessions and two resumed sessions, as well as such special sessions as may be convened, taking into account the duration of the term of each president: the President of the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session from January to September 2002; the President of the fifty-seventh session from September 2002 to September 2003; and the President of the fifty-eighth session for a four-month period from September to December 2003. Upon enquiry as to past utilization of such resources, the Committee was informed that for 2000-2001 it was expected that an over-expenditure would arise. In this connection, the Committee recalls its recommendation that the estimate be adjusted in the light of experience (see ibid., para. I.7). Accordingly, the Committee requests that, in preparing the budget estimates for 2004-2005, actual experience be taken into account.**

I.9 The Advisory Committee recalls the comments in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of the consolidation of technical support services in the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (A/55/803, para. 37) concerning the desirability of providing the Office of the President with some core Professional staff who would provide continuity in the proper substantive and technical servicing of the Office. **In this connection, the Committee recommends a review of the adequacy of the staff support for the**

President. Related proposals should be submitted to the Assembly during the first part of its fifty-sixth session.

I.10 **The Advisory Committee also recommends that immediate steps be taken to provide office accommodation befitting the status of the President of the General Assembly. The Committee requests that the steps to be taken be communicated to the Assembly at the first part of its fifty-sixth session.**

I.11 **The Advisory Committee further recommends that when the President is travelling in the service of the United Nations, the Organization bear the travel and subsistence costs of the President and of appropriate personnel, whether United Nations staff or not, in the service of the Organization while accompanying the President, as is the practice with officials of the United Nations.**

I.12 As indicated in table A.1.14 of the proposed programme budget, resources requested for the Board of Auditors, including its secretariat, amount to $4,873,700 before recosting, reflecting an increase of 5.4 per cent over the biennium 2000-2001. In addition, a total of $7,857,100 in extrabudgetary resources is projected to be available for 2002-2003.

I.13 With regard to the scope of the audits, the Advisory Committee draws attention to regulation 12.6 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, which states that the Board of Auditors shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of audits. The Committee also draws attention to regulation 12.8, which states that the Secretary-General shall provide the Board of Auditors with the facilities it may require in the performance of audits. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the number of reports to be submitted by the Board of Auditors to the General Assembly and other bodies each biennium amounted to some 34. In addition, a number of special audits would be requested and carried out during the biennium. Upon request, the Committee was provided with information on the growth in the total cost of external audits since 1996-1997 (see table I.1). The Committee notes General Assembly resolution 55/248 of 12 April 2001, by which the Assembly decided that the members of the Board of Auditors should be elected for a non-consecutive term of office of six years' duration. In this connection, the Committee recalls its recommendation that appropriate transitional arrangements be made (A/49/547, para. 20).

I.14 Resources relating to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board (including United Nations participation in the costs of the secretariat of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund) are shown in table A.1.16 of the proposed programme budget. The funding arrangement formula is described in paragraph A.1.28. As explained in paragraphs 1.21 and A.1.29 of the proposed programme budget, the reduced level of requirements is based upon current requirements for meeting the United Nations share of the administrative budget of the Fund and is subject to revision in the light of action to be taken later in 2001 by the Standing Committee of the Fund. Implications for the regular budget of action to be taken by the Standing Committee and the decision by the Assembly in connection with the 2002-2003 budget of the Fund would be the subject of a statement of programme budget implications.

Table I.1
Cost of external audits since the biennium 1996-1997
(In United States dollars)

Biennium	*Audit*	*Cost*	*Percentage*
1996-1997	Total cost	9 263 860	
	Regular budget	3 130 157	33.79
	Peacekeeping operations	2 154 260	23.25
	UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF	2 229 020	24.06
	Other extrabudgetary programmes	1 750 423	18.90
1998-1999	Total cost	9 449 710	
	Regular budget	3 079 670	32.60
	Peacekeeping operations	1 994 720	21.10
	UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF	2 269 740	24.00
	Other extrabudgetary programmes	2 105 580	22.30
2000-2001	Total cost	10 807 410	
	Regular budget	3 670 000	34.00
	Peacekeeping operations	2 148 240	19.90
	UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF	2 436 150	22.50
	Other extrabudgetary programmes	2 553 020	23.60
2002-2003	Total cost	11 442 195	
	Regular budget	3 741 400	32.70
	Peacekeeping operations	2 223 730	19.43
	UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF	2 554 580	22.33
	Other extrabudgetary programmes	2 992 485	25.54

I.15 As indicated in table A.1.18 of the proposed programme budget, estimated requirements in section 1 under executive direction and management amount to $27,753,100 before recosting, reflecting a decrease over the previous biennium of $64,500, or 0.2 per cent.

I.16 As shown in table A.1.20 of the proposed programme budget, for the biennium 2002-2003, the total number of regular budget posts proposed under executive direction and management is 122, as compared with 118 for the previous biennium. An explanation for the establishment of the four new posts is given in paragraphs 1.35, 1.36, A.1.41 and A.1.42 of the proposed programme budget.

I.17 In paragraph A.1.41 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General proposes strengthening the speech-writing unit in his Executive Office through the reclassification of the head speech-writer from the D-1 to the D-2 level and the establishment of a new P-4 post. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Unit had produced 629 speeches in 2000. In the context of promoting the flexibility and rotation of staff, the Committee enquired whether the Unit cooperated with substantive departments and the Department of Public Information. It was informed

that there was indeed cooperation, but that those entities could not provide personnel that satisfied the special requirements of speech-writers in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. With regard to the position of head speech-writer, the Committee was also informed that the incumbent was already at the D-2 level. **In this connection, the Committee reiterates its view that there is a need to eliminate the practice of encumbering a post at a level higher than that at which the post is graded in the expectation that the post will subsequently be upgraded in order to accommodate the incumbent (see also chap. I, para. 47, above). In the opinion of the Committee, the justifications given for the reclassification are insufficient. The Committee recommends against the reclassification of the post.** With regard to the P-4 post requested, the Committee was informed that an individual had been performing this function at the P-4 level since September 1997 and that the position had been funded on an ad hoc basis and charged against vacant posts or general temporary assistance since that time. The proposal is thus to regularize the situation, and not, strictly speaking, a request for additional staff. **Accordingly, the Committee recommends approval of the post.**

I.18 Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that formal job descriptions did not exist for posts in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. **The Committee requests that, to the extent possible, such job descriptions be provided in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The Committee is also of the view that there is a need for greater transparency related to the total cost of travel attributed to the Secretary-General.**

I.19 As indicated in paragraph A.1.42 of the proposed programme budget, the establishment of a new General Service (Other level) post for a local area network (LAN) administrator is proposed to assist with day-to-day problems arising from software applications and programming, as well as with troubleshooting. In addition, the reclassification from P-2 to P-3 of a protocol officer's post is proposed in order to align the level of the post with that of other protocol officers performing identical functions. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to these proposals.**

I.20 In paragraph 1.33 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General proposes the reclassification from P-5 to D-2 of the post of the Director of Protocol at Geneva. The Advisory Committee was informed that the incumbent was at the D-1 level. **In this connection, the Committee reiterates its position on reclassification as stated in chapter I, paragraph 47 above.** The Committee was provided with additional information concerning protocol services in the various agencies in Geneva. The Committee points out that most of the officials involved with protocol, who range in grade from P-3 (World Health Organization) to D-1 (World Intellectual Property Organization and World Trade Organization), also deal with external relations and inter-agency affairs. **In the opinion of the Committee, the information provided in paragraph 1.33 does not appear to justify the upgrading, as the functions described are not new and no explanation is given concerning the change in the nature of the job that would warrant a D-2 post. The Committee therefore recommends against the reclassification.**

I.21 The Advisory Committee notes the proposals in paragraphs 1.36 and 1.37 of the proposed programme budget for the establishment of a new post of Deputy to the Director-General at Vienna at the Assistant Secretary-General level to undertake responsibility for activities related to crime prevention and criminal justice and

international drug control and to deputize on issues related to administrative and financial matters, as well as for the establishment of a General Service (Principal level) support post. The Committee was informed that the D-2 staff immediately under the Director-General were not in a position to deputize for him. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that of the four D-2 regular budget posts in Vienna (one each in the Division for Administrative and Common Services, the Office for Outer Space Affairs, the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme), three were currently encumbered, while the fourth (that of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme) was under recruitment. The Committee was also informed that there was an extrabudgetary D-2 post that was temporarily blocked for a staff member on mission assignment. Further, under the current deputizing arrangements, the Director of the Division of Administrative and Common Services was designed as Deputy Director-General.

I.22 The Advisory Committee notes the statement in paragraph 1.36 of the proposed programme budget that:

> "Bearing in mind the need to ensure that extensive delegated executing powers can be retained in Vienna to ensure operational effectiveness while at the same time needing to guarantee that Organization-wide norms are respected in all administrative management matters, it has been determined that the Office [of the Director-General] needs to be structurally reinforced".

I.23 In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls paragraph I.24 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 in which the role of the Director-General is described. If the capacity of the Office of the Director-General needs to be strengthened to implement delegated authority and guarantee respect for Organization-wide norms, it is doubtful that the provision of an Assistant Secretary-General post would accomplish that. Rather, the proper course of action would be to have the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Management provide the requisite training and guidance on personnel matters as well as on financial and management matters. **Furthermore, the Committee is of the opinion that respect for Organization-wide norms would not necessarily be enhanced by another top-level post. Such norms can be guaranteed only by holding those responsible accountable for their actions. Failure in terms of accountability should lead to the appropriate personnel action in conformity with the Staff Regulations and Rules and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against acceptance of the proposals to establish a new Assistant Secretary-General post and a new General Service (Principal level) post.**

I.24 The Advisory Committee notes the proposal in paragraphs 1.39 and A.1.67 to reclassify the P-5 post in the Office of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Nairobi to the D-1 level. **In the opinion of the Committee the proposal is not adequately justified. The Committee therefore recommends against the reclassification.**

Section 2
General Assembly affairs and conference services

I.25 As can be seen from table A.2.1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the overall level of resources proposed for the biennium for section 2 amounts to $423,865,400 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $8,488,900, or 2.0 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2000-2001. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 2.8 of the proposed programme budget, that the demand for services in the biennium 2000-2001 was higher than originally anticipated because of, inter alia, a greater than average number of meetings of intergovernmental and expert organs, the extension of sessions of several bodies beyond their scheduled closing dates and the frequent addition of meetings over and above the number planned.

I.26 It is estimated that regular budget resources under the section would be supplemented by extrabudgetary resources amounting to $21,461,100. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with details concerning the sources of the estimated extrabudgetary funds.

Presentation

I.27 **In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the presentation under section 2 of the proposed programme budget should, if possible, include the provision of conference services throughout the United Nations. At present, there are two notable exclusions, namely, the Security Council and the regional commissions (apart from the Economic Commission for Europe). Conference services for the Security Council are included in section 2 but are not mentioned. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to explore the technical feasibility of such a consolidated presentation, which would provide an overall view of the total conference-servicing requirements under the regular budget in much the same way that the consolidated calendar of conferences shows the totality of meetings to be held. This presentation should in no way change the current support provided by the Department of Political Affairs to the Security Council or the current responsibility of the regional commissions to manage their own conferences. However, in the long term, it may promote closer cooperation between all duty stations in the use of conference-servicing resources.**

I.28 The Advisory Committee requests that in future a consolidated table similar to table 2.8 (on resource requirements by duty station) be prepared, which would also incorporate workload statistics for each service for New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, as well as for the regional commissions.

I.29 The Advisory Committee recalls its recommendation in paragraph I.30 of its first report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[3] that the structure of this section should be reviewed. The Committee noted that, while library services in New York were part of section 26, Public information (representing 12 per cent of the regular budget for that section), library services in Geneva and Vienna were part of section 2. In the opinion of the Committee, the explanation provided in table 2.35 of the proposed programme budget is inadequate, as it merely provides the historical background for the arrangement. **The Committee reiterates that the structure should be reviewed with a view to rationalizing it, taking into account the views of the libraries and the users (see also para. VII.17 below).**

I.30 With regard to the structure of the subprogrammes, the Advisory Committee enquired as to the reasons for including dissimilar functions together in the same subprogramme. **It seems to the Committee that publishing services, for example, have little to do with interpretation; however, as can be seen in tables 2.8 and 2.24, New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi all have a subprogramme entitled "Interpretation, meeting and publishing services".** Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that publishing was included with interpretation and meeting services in Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi to correspond to the presentation for New York. **The Committee recommends that the structure of the subprogrammes be reviewed and that consideration be given to changing it to combine similar services under the same subprogramme. In the opinion of the Committee, publishing should be grouped together with services dealing with the processing and production of documents, such as translation, editing, printing and dissemination (including the Internet) (see also para. I.62 below).**

I.31 **The Advisory Committee notes the information contained in table 2.35 on follow-up action taken to implement the recommendations of the internal and external oversight bodies and of the Committee, and requests that in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 this table include details of the results of implementing the recommendations. The Committee stresses that it is seeking information on results, not merely a statement that a recommendation has been implemented.**

Coordination and planning

I.32 The Advisory Committee notes the statement in paragraph 2.5 of the proposed programme budget that:

> "The Under-Secretary General for General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services is responsible for conference services in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi ... This arrangement allows for integrated management of the conference-servicing resources in the four duty stations with a view to achieving the efficient utilization of resources".

In the opinion of the Committee, integrated management implies the use of resources in an integrated manner and should lead to instances of work sharing. Where there is unused capacity in one duty station, for example, work could be transferred there from an overloaded duty station.

I.33 Upon enquiry as to the extent of workload sharing at present, the Advisory Committee was informed that the loaning of interpretation services was a well-established practice among the locations and that loans were normally arranged bilaterally by the heads of the interpretation services involved, taking into account the need to keep a number of staff in reserve to handle late additions to their own workloads. The Committee was also informed that staffing for meetings held away from established headquarters was decided on a workload-sharing basis, taking into account the workload at the various duty stations as well as cost considerations, whereas editing and translation workloads were shared on a more limited basis by means of staff loans. Workloads in document processing were more frequently shared through remote processing, that is, processing at a duty station other than the designated processing site, which was normally the duty station of the author department. Remote processing was usually organized through the documents control units at each location. Further, the Committee was informed that in-session

workload had not been shared in the past, but that the possibility of instituting such arrangements was currently being reviewed. However, when a meeting was held away from an established conference centre, the duty station where the processing of documents would take place was determined on the basis of processing capacity and time differences.

I.34 Upon enquiry as to the relationships between the various planning and control units in New York as well as supervisory arrangements, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Central Planning and Coordination Service consisted of the Office of the Chief, the Planning and Meetings Servicing Section and the Documents Control Section. The Chief of the Service is at the D-1 level, and the Office of the Chief also includes the three staff members who publish the *Journal of the United Nations*. The Planning and Meetings Servicing Section is responsible for the development and implementation of the calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations. The Chief of the Section, who is at the P-5 level, also serves as the Secretary of the Committee on Conferences. There are two units in the Section: the Planning Unit, which is responsible for the calendar of conferences and meetings, and the Meetings Servicing Unit, which is responsible for ongoing meetings at Headquarters. The Documents Control Section is responsible for coordinating the processing of all documentation. The Chief of the Section, at the P-5 level, also supervises the work of the Coordination and Records Unit, which serves as a liaison point for downstream processing, namely, reproduction and distribution.

I.35 The Advisory Committee understands that the Inter-Agency Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications meets once a year to share best practices. **In the opinion of the Committee, this forum has great potential, which should be further developed to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the agencies on the use of conference services. The Committee encourages those involved to explore the possibilities for sharing translation, interpretation, editorial and printing services.**

Workload and staffing requirements

I.36 The Advisory Committee notes from table 2.3 of the proposed programme budget that a total of 2,029 posts are requested, including 105 extrabudgetary posts, resulting in an increase of 21 posts over the previous biennium (see also paras. I.57, I.59, I.60 and I.63 below). Under the net budgeting arrangements established by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/237 of 31 March 1995, this figure excludes the 173 posts budgeted for conference services, Vienna.

I.37 The Advisory Committee was informed that the resources requested throughout the budget for temporary assistance for meetings totalled $38.6 million before recosting. The Committee was also informed that the revised appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001 for temporary assistance for meetings was $36,356,400 before recosting. The increase over 2000-2001 is mainly attributable to New York, offset by decreases at other duty stations.

I.38 In paragraph I.40 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the Advisory Committee expressed its opinion that proposed reductions in temporary assistance for meetings needed to be evaluated in the light of apparent and persistent instances of problems concerning the level and quality of a number of services, such as translation and interpretation, as well as the timely

publication of official records. As indicated in paragraph I.42 of the same report, the representatives of the Secretary-General assured the Committee that the resources requested for the biennium would be adequate and that the workload, as well as the demand for conferences, had stabilized. This does not appear to have been the case. The Committee notes with interest the statement in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/55/803, para. 23) that owing to a substantial increase in the demand for services in 2000, expenditures on temporary assistance had exceeded estimates. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the estimated overrun for temporary assistance for meetings for the biennium 2000-2001 would amount to approximately $7 million. **Under the circumstances, the Committee questions whether the proposed increase of $4.1 million for New York only (see para. A.2.20) will be sufficient, especially in view of the marginal increases or even decreases at the other duty stations.**

I.39 The Advisory Committee was informed that the allotment for the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services for 2000-2001 ($408.2 million) was 3.8 per cent ($16.2 million) less than actual expenditures for the previous biennium ($424.4 million). At the same time, on the basis of actual output figures for 2000, the Department estimates that conference-servicing workloads will show increases across the board for the current biennium over 1998-1999 ranging from 3.6 per cent for translation to 5.7 per cent for printing and reproduction, 9 per cent for text-processing, 10 per cent for verbatim reporting and 12.4 per cent for interpretation. The combination of a reduced resource level and a higher-than-anticipated demand for services has led the Department to project a sizeable over-expenditure for the biennium — $28.9 million (including the $7 million referred to in para. I.38 above). Resources allocated to posts have traditionally been insufficient in the Department, not only because the Department maintains a very low vacancy rate (3.4 per cent), but also because the actual cost of some of its staff is higher than the standard rate used to prepare the estimates.

I.40 As can be seen from table 2.2, the total regular budget resources requested for section 2 for 2002-2003 before recosting are approximately 3 per cent lower than actual expenditures for 1998-1999, while workload has increased in most services in the four duty stations — in some cases substantially. The workload indicators in table A.2.17, for example, show an increase of approximately 9 per cent in the number of calendar meetings to be held in New York in 2002-2003 in comparison with 1998-1999. Non-calendar meetings are expected to increase by approximately 11 per cent, and total calendar and non-calendar meetings by roughly 10 per cent.

I.41 The Advisory Committee recalls that the staffing table of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services was reduced at the end of 1997 by 206 posts, 89 of which were from Headquarters. In this connection, the Committee notes that the Office of Internal Oversight Services commended the Department for its great effort in providing services in the face of increasing demand (A/55/803, para. 17). **However, it appears to the Committee that the demand for a variety of services is in excess of present capacity and available resources, and this has resulted in some inefficiency and complaints from Member States (see para. I.49 below).**

I.42 The Advisory Committee points out that the workload indicators given in section 2 do not provide a full picture. It is worth noting that workload indicators for conference services, as shown in the proposed programme budget, measure actual

output, and thus are a function of capacity rather than demand. For example, translation workloads for any given period do not include backlogs or documents that have had to be delayed because of a lack of available capacity. Similarly, interpretation statistics will not include requests for services that could not be accommodated for the same reason. When the Department is operating in a deficit mode, it is to be expected that the margin for flexibility in addressing requests for documentation and meeting services is significantly reduced.

I.43 The Advisory Committee also notes the statement of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the Department has to examine the extent to which resources, especially human resources, can be stretched. The Office also stated that the staff was fatigued as a result of working long hours and that that might have an effect on the quality and timeliness of services (ibid., para. 55).

I.44 **It appears to the Advisory Committee, from the information provided to it, that temporary assistance funds for meetings are being used for ongoing, year-round functions and services, forcing the Department to resort to ad hoc stopgap measures, such as informal arrangements for granting compensatory time and the assignment of interpreters to booths for which they have not passed the competitive examination for interpreters, for example, to deal with periods of peak workload.[4] While the Committee understands the reasons for such measures, it points out that they only serve to mask and, in the long run exacerbate, the problem, which, in the opinion of the Committee, is a lack of sufficient core capacity**.

I.45 **The Advisory Committee welcomes the introduction of further efficiencies, mentioned in paragraph 2.8 of the proposed programme budget, including strengthened coordination, concentration of resources on priority areas, improved control of temporary assistance for meetings, increased capacity utilization and the application of new technologies. It cautions, however, that the application of any cost-saving measures must be realistic. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Committee, any call for further productivity will require investment**.

I.46 **In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, one of the most pressing needs in this regard is a reliable core staff of interpreters**. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that 20,000 interpreter assignments were carried out in 2000 using staff on established posts, while 12,000 were carried out using temporary funds for meetings. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that by July 2000 most available retired interpreters had reached the yearly budgetary cap of $40,000 for individual retired staff members and could not be rehired, forcing the Secretariat to resort at times to expensive international freelance personnel. In this connection, the Committee recalls the report of the Secretary-General on the employment of retirees (A/55/451, para. 20), in which it is pointed out that the ceiling on annual earnings for retirees means that a retired interpreter can be hired for only 105 days a year (see also chap. I, para. 133, above). The Committee has also been made aware that there is a certain degree of inconsistency between the language services with regard to the use of local or international staff. **In the opinion of the Committee, it might be more cost-effective over time to have more established interpreter posts on the staffing table that could be used for services at the four duty stations in mutual workload-sharing arrangements. In this connection, the Committee notes the**

establishment of a permanent interpretation capacity at Nairobi (see para. A.2.70 of the proposed budget).

I.47 The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretariat had some difficulty attracting qualified interpretation staff to some duty stations and in finding qualified interpreters for some language combinations. With regard to the former, the Committee was informed that discussions were under way between the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services and the Office of Human Resources Management on the possibility of granting the Department greater flexibility in filling vacancies and deploying staff between duty stations. **In connection with the latter, the Committee recommends that the Secretariat give some consideration to reinstituting the in-house interpreter training programme, which was established in 1974 and suspended in 1992 owing to budgetary constraints, despite a high rate of success.**

I.48 On the issue of career development in the language services, the Advisory Committee recalls its comments and recommendations in paragraphs 108-111 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The Committee notes the indication in table 2.35 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 that staffing levels, grade structures and career prospects of language staff, as well as "non-budgetary measures" that could be taken to address problems, will be among the issues that will be covered in the reports requested by the General Assembly in part IV, paragraphs 11 and 12, of its resolution 55/222. **In the view of the Committee, this is not an adequate response to the concerns raised by the Committee in the above-mentioned report, especially given the fact that the Committee had specifically requested that the comprehensive review be conducted prior to the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.**

I.49 The Advisory Committee notes that in the survey carried out by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, two thirds of the Member States responding mentioned the timeliness of documentation as an area that needed improvement (A/55/803, para. 17). **Although one of the main factors involved in the delayed issuance of documents is their late submission by departments of the Secretariat and intergovernmental bodies, in the opinion of the Committee, lack of capacity also plays a role. With in-house capacity stretched to the limit, there must necessarily be a certain degree of prioritization of documentation, which sometimes may result in unequal treatment of the documentation of the various organs of the United Nations. Security Council documents, for example, because of their nature and the requirements of the rules of procedure of the Council, receive higher priority and are issued in a much more timely manner than are General Assembly documents. The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General consider a system-wide approach to the most efficient use of remote translation to reinforce capacity (see para. I.55 below).**

I.50 **It seems evident to the Advisory Committee that a continuation of the current situation in the face of increasing demand will not only limit the ability of the Department to respond to requests for services, but it will also compromise the quality of services provided. It is thus for the General Assembly to decide on the level and quality of conference services it expects, but it must do so in the knowledge that there may be reductions in both the level and quality of service unless adequate funding is provided. In this**

connection, the Committee recalls its view, stated in its report on results-based budgeting that for programme managers to achieve expected accomplishments, budgetary levels must be commensurate with the level of approved programmes (A/55/543, para. 18; see also the Committee's first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999,[5] paras. 10 and 27).

Information technology

I.51 **In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, new technologies have great potential to improve the efficiency, coordination and productivity of conference services, as well as to provide improved service at a reduced cost. This potential is not, at present, being exploited fully**. Further, many of the descriptions of technological innovations in this section are similar, sometimes word-for-word, to those in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, with little indication of progress achieved. Nor is there any indication of the estimated cost of implementing new technologies. In fact, investment so far in new technologies has been small in comparison with needs. The Committee notes from the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/55/803, para. 26) that in the biennium 2000-2001, the Department's budget allocated $4,009,700 for information technology, 1.53 per cent of its total regular budget.

I.52 Current workload standards for conference services are set out in table 2.45 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[6] Those standards were developed in response to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee in paragraph VIII.153 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 that workload standards should be re-evaluated, given the potential for increase in productivity as a result of utilization of new technology. **The Committee requests that workload standards for conference services be kept under review**.

I.53 The Advisory Committee enquired about the achievements of the Information Technology Unit, mentioned in paragraph 2.85, which was established as a part of the Executive Office of the Department in the biennium 1998-1999 to deal with software development, equipment acquisition and maintenance and the special needs of the Department, particularly those relating to the production of documents in the official languages of the United Nations (plus German) other than English and French. The Committee was informed that since its establishment, the Unit had introduced new word-processing software (Windows 2000 and Word 2000), initiated the computer-assisted translation project, developed a multilingual terminology application, replaced the Documentation Registration, Information and Tracking System (DRITS) which was not year 2000 compatible, with an electronic version, eDRITS, introduced a new system to facilitate the scheduling of interpreter assignments, developed and introduced a new system for off-site verbatim reporting, developed and introduced a new stock control system for publications, established a new departmental help desk and introduced state-of-the-art information and communications technology equipment throughout the Department.

I.54 Upon request, the Advisory Committee received detailed information concerning the technology goals mentioned in paragraph 2.85 and the related costs. **The Committee encourages continued exploration of the feasibility of large-scale remote interpretation, an application which, in the view of the Committee, has enormous potential**. There is, for example, an element of remote interpretation

involved in videoconferencing. The Committee also points out that the digitalization of the meeting recording system might have positive implications for precis writing and translation. **With regard to the consolidation of the terminology data banks accessible online, the Committee is of the opinion that these should be made available to all the duty stations**. The Committee was informed that the voice recognition project mentioned in paragraph 2.45 was still under way, but that there had been some delay in the provision of the requisite software, owing to solvency problems of the software company that had been engaged by the United Nations. The Committee was informed that Geneva was the focal point for this project, which entails the conversion of recorded dictation to text in word-processing formats, thus reducing cassette transcription workloads in the text-processing units.

I.55 **On the basis of discussions with the representatives of the Secretary-General from Headquarters and the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna, the Advisory Committee concludes that considerable progress has been made in remote translation. In this regard, the Committee shares the concerns expressed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the use of remote translation requires an adequate support structure at the duty stations and the capacity to monitor performance and thereby ensure consistent quality control. Remote translation technology provides numerous possibilities, such as work-sharing among duty stations, flexibility in the location of translators and using translators from countries where the cost of translation is lower. Taking into account the concerns expressed above, the Committee is of the opinion that further investments in this technology should be made, and the implications of remote translation with respect to staff deployment should be analysed**.

I.56 In a related matter, the Advisory Committee was provided with the rates of self-revision at Headquarters, Geneva and Vienna (see table I.2). **The Committee expresses concern that such high levels of self-revision could lead to a lowering of translation quality**.

Table I.2
Rates of self-revision at three duty stations (percentage of total)

Duty station	*April 1998-March 1999*	*April 1999-March 2000*
Headquarters	51.1	54.6
United Nations Office at Geneva	68.5	61.0
United Nations Office at Vienna	66.9	65.9

I.57 The Advisory Committee notes the proposal in paragraph 2.86 for the establishment of a new General Service (Principal level) post for an administrative assistant to serve as a focal point of the Department for coordination of issues related to the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). **The Committee recommends approval of the post**.

General Assembly affairs and conference services, New York

I.58 The Advisory Committee notes that the Documentation Programming and Monitoring Unit and the Documents Control Section are organizationally separate entities. The Committee enquired as to whether steps had been taken to strengthen

the structural links between them or whether consideration had been given to locating them within a common organizational framework, as recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see A/55/803, para. 16). It was informed that there were substantial differences between the functions of the two units. The Documentation Programming and Monitoring Unit liaises directly with author and submitting departments and ensures compliance with rules and regulations governing the control and limitation of documentation. The Documents Control Section manages the actual processing of manuscripts, such as referencing, editing, translation, text processing and the like. The Committee was informed that efforts were under way to strengthen the links between the units, but that it was not thought that merging them would have any practical benefit.

I.59 In connection with the proposal in paragraph 2.28 for reclassification of the Secretary of the Second Committee and of the Economic and Social Council from the D-1 to the D-2 level, the Advisory Committee understands that this represents a restoration to the previous level for this post. **The Committee interposes no objection to the request**. The Committee sought information concerning the levels of other secretaries of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and the principal organs of the United Nations. It was informed that, at present, the Secretary of the Security Council was at the D-2 level, the Secretaries of the First and Second Committees were at the D-1 level, the Secretaries of the Third and Fourth Committees were at the P-5 level, and the Secretaries of the Fifth and Sixth Committees were at the D-2 level. **It appears that there is no established criterion for determining the level of such posts. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to review the matter and to report thereon in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, even if it means eventual downward reclassification**. Also in paragraph 2.28, the establishment of a new General Service (Other level) post is proposed for a meeting services assistant through conversion from general temporary assistance funds, as the functions of the position are of a continuing nature. **The Committee has no objection to the establishment of the post**.

I.60 In paragraph 2.32, under planning, development and coordination of conference services, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of three new General Service (Other level) posts for meeting services assistants through conversion from temporary assistance funds, as the functions of the position are of a continuing nature. No additional capacity is being requested. This would bring the total number of posts for the subprogramme to 50, as against 47 in the biennium 2000-2001. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed conversions**.

I.61 No additional posts are requested for translation and editorial services. The total would remain at 449 staff members.

I.62 With regard to the subprogramme on interpretation, meeting and publishing services, as indicated in paragraph I.30 above, the Advisory Committee questions the appropriateness of presenting interpretation together with publishing. **The Committee requests that, in future budget submissions, publishing be separated from interpretation, and that the possibility of presenting it as part of translation and editing be considered (see also paras. I.30 above and I.65 below)**.

I.63 In paragraph 2.40 of the proposed programme budget, the establishment of 11 new posts and the abolition of 1 post are proposed under interpretation, meeting and publishing services, bringing the total number of posts to 644. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General is proposing the establishment of the following posts through the conversion of temporary assistance funds: (a) three new P-3 posts for verbatim reporters; (b) six General Service (Other level) posts for editorial assistants in the Text-Processing Section; and (c) one new General Service (Other level) post for a meeting servicing assistant in the Interpretation Service. All of these posts are to be established because of the continuing nature of the functions. In addition, the establishment of one P-3 post for a copy preparer in the Copy Preparation and Proof-reading Section is proposed to address the increased workload, offset by the abolition of one General Service (Other level) post in the same section. **The Committee has no objection to these proposals**.

I.64 The Advisory Committee recalls its comments in paragraph I.48 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 concerning the question of a cost-accounting system for conference services. The Committee had requested that the Secretary-General provide information on progress made in that regard in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The Committee notes the response in table 2.35 that further work on the development of a cost-accounting system for conference services depended on clear guidance from Member States as to what the purposes of such a system should be. Such guidance had been requested from the Committee on Conferences and the Fifth Committee.

Conference and library services, Geneva

I.65 The Advisory Committee notes from the organization chart provided in section 2 that Geneva has separate Interpretation and Publishing Services, yet they are presented together under subprogramme 3, Interpretation, meeting and publishing services. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that this was done to align the presentation for Geneva with that of New York. **The Committee recommends that, in future, the Geneva model be followed and that interpretation services be presented separately from publishing services (see also paras. I.30 and I.62 above)**.

I.66 The Advisory Committee notes the statements in paragraph 2.42 that information technology applications put into place during the previous biennium would be strengthened and extended and that standardization and compatibility of applications with Headquarters and other duty stations would be further pursued. Upon request, the Committee was provided with details concerning what had been achieved thus far in that regard.

I.67 **The Advisory Committee recommends further development of the voice recognition project referred to in paragraph 2.45 of the budget and mentioned in paragraph I.54 above, and requests that an assessment be undertaken to determine the effect this technology will have on conference services in the United Nations before it is applied broadly**.

I.68 In response to questions concerning the multiplicity of printing operations in Geneva, the Advisory Committee was informed that there was potential for arranging common printing services for some of the Geneva-based organizations if improvements were made to the printing plant of the United Nations Office at

Geneva. A capital expenditure of $853,500 is proposed for the modernization project in section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, of the proposed programme budget (para. A.31.2 (b) (iii)). Upon request, the Committee was provided with comparative costings for internal and external printing for four recently processed publications. Internal printing costs were determined using the Printpak computerized costing system (see A/55/7/Add.1, para. 32), while external printing costs reflected the prices quoted by the lowest bidder among the printers from whom price quotations were requested. **While, in general, the information provided thus far shows the cost of internal printing to be significantly lower than that for external printing, the Committee is of the opinion that a more comprehensive analysis is necessary. This analysis should be provided to the Fifth Committee during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.**

I.69 **In paragraph A.2.43, under interpretation, meeting and publishing services, the Secretary-General proposes the reclassification of two P-2/1 posts to the P-3 level in the Copy Preparation and Proof-reading Unit. The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassifications.**

I.70 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.2.47 that the reorganization of the archival function at the United Nations Office at Geneva has involved the transfer of the Registry Unit of the Division of Administration to the Library. The Unit has been consolidated with the former League of Nations Archives Unit of the Library to form the new Registry, Records and Archives Unit. In connection with the reorganization, the reclassification of the Chief of the new Unit from the P-3 to the P-4 level is proposed. **The Committee has no objection to the reclassification. The Committee notes that archives and records functions in Geneva are given to the Library; in New York they fall under section 27D, Office of Central Support Services; this is yet another example of inconsistency in approach in the organizational handling of the library functions (see para. I.29 above).**

Conference and library services, Vienna

I.71 The Advisory Committee notes the reference to the Documents Control and Performance Monitoring System in paragraph 2.62 (b) of the proposed programme budget. During its discussions with the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee was informed that there were three separate document tracking systems in New York, Geneva and Vienna that are not interactive. The Committee requested information concerning what would be required to make the systems interactive. **In the opinion of the Committee, this is especially important for the smooth functioning of workload sharing among the duty stations.** As at the close of the Committee's session, no response had been received. The Committee requests that the information be provided to the Fifth Committee for its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

I.72 In paragraph 2.61 of the proposed programme budget, outsourcing target rates for various services in Vienna are detailed as follows: 15 per cent of total translation output, 6 per cent for editing, 20 per cent for proof-reading and copy preparation and 5 per cent for design and typesetting. The Advisory Committee was informed that the rates had been determined with a view to ensuring that the quality of the services would not be affected. Through its discussions with the representatives of the Secretary-General from the four duty stations, the Committee has become aware

that there are no specific guidelines concerning this issue. Rather, the choice of a rate of outsourcing was based on the specific situation of the duty station concerned. The Committee was informed, for example, that for Headquarters the outsourcing rate proposed for translation for 2002-2003 was 21.6 per cent and for text-processing, 15.8 per cent. The corresponding rates for Geneva are 9.4 and 9.5 per cent. **The Committee requests that conference services at Headquarters review the matter, in cooperation with conference services at offices away from Headquarters, and that they report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session with a view to identifying factors common to all the duty stations, as well as factors specific to each duty station, that affect the setting of target rates for outsourcing. Such factors could include, for example, the capacity to perform the service in-house, the availability of in-house capacity to monitor performance and quality of services and the ability of the service to schedule its operations to meet deadlines, as well as cost-effectiveness. The Committee stresses the importance of ensuring that, in all instances of outsourcing, there should be in place adequate capacity to monitor the quality of the services that are being contracted out.**

I.73 The Advisory Committee notes the description in paragraph 2.68 of efforts to be undertaken in interpretation, meeting and publishing services to achieve greater efficiency and productivity. The Committee also notes the lack of information concerning estimated savings to be realized as the result of such efforts.

Conference services, Nairobi

I.74 As indicated in paragraph 2.74 of the proposed programme budget, the activities and resource requirements for conference services, Nairobi, are presented under section 2 for the first time, following the reorganization of the Nairobi conference services and the establishment of the Division of Conference Services at Nairobi in response to General Assembly resolutions 54/248 and 54/249, both of 23 December 1999, and the transfer of activities and resources from section 12, Environment, section 13, Human settlements, and section 27G, Administration, Nairobi, in accordance with Assembly resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000.

I.75 The Advisory Committee notes the proposal in paragraph 2.77 for the reclassification of the Chief of the Division of Conference Services from P-5 to D-1. **In view of the reorganization of conference services at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the consequent increase in the responsibilities of the Chief of the Division, the Committee recommends approval of the reclassification.** The Committee also notes, as indicated in table A.2.57, that the estimates include the establishment of two additional temporary extrabudgetary posts at the Local level under translation and editorial services.

I.76 The Advisory Committee asked for details concerning the billing arrangements used by the United Nations Office at Nairobi for conference services. The Committee was informed that 80 per cent of the cost was billed before the start of a meeting, with the balance to be received one week after the end of the meeting. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, the procedure was working fairly well, although there had been instances when cash flow was irregular.

I.77 With regard to the filling of vacancies in the Interpretation Service at Nairobi, the Advisory Committee was informed that, of the 20 established posts for interpreters, 13 had been filled.

Part II
Political affairs

II.1 The Secretary-General's estimate for part II of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $251,702,200, and comprises a total of $156,322,800 for section 3, Political affairs; $15,336,000 for section 4, Disarmament; $76,276,200 for section 5, Peacekeeping Operations; and $3,767,200 for section 6, Peaceful uses of outer space.

Section 3
Political affairs

II.2 The regular budget estimates under section 3, before recosting, amount to $147,204,900, reflecting a decrease of $20,639,800, or 12.2 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation of $167,844,700 for the biennium 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources for 2002-2003 are projected at $9,536,100, compared with $21,713,300 for 2000-2001. As explained in paragraph 3.8 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[1] the decrease in the latter is mostly related to the termination in 2001 of the International Civilian Support Mission in Haiti (MICAH), which comprised a large technical assistance component funded from extrabudgetary resources.

II.3 As stated in paragraph 3.5, the estimate of $93,691,600 for special political missions is in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/233 of 23 December 2000. It is based on the current cost of the existing political missions listed in the report of the Advisory Committee (A/55/685 and Corr.1, para. 7), which are expected to be extended by the General Assembly or the Security Council during the biennium 2002-2003, although the estimate is not limited to those missions. Utilization of this provision, nevertheless, is subject to individual legislative mandates and approval by the Assembly, as and when the Council and/or the Assembly establish or renew such mandates. The Committee notes that in accordance with paragraph 6 of Assembly resolution 55/233, additional requirements related to peace and security will be treated in accordance with Assembly resolution 41/213. As indicated in paragraph A.3.40 of the proposed programme budget, the decrease of $21,590,100, when compared to the 2000-2001 appropriation, relates to the discontinuation of the United Nations International Civilian Mission in Haiti, MICAH and other non-recurrent activities, as well as the gradual reduction in the activities of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala.

II.4 The resources proposed for the Department of Political Affairs of $44,575,000, before recosting, reflect a resource growth of 2.1 per cent compared with the resources appropriated for 2000-2001 of $43,624,700.

II.5 The number of regular budget posts proposed for section 3 is 198, as compared with 195 for 2000-2001. The new posts proposed are a P-4 and a P-3 under subprogramme 1, Prevention, control and resolution of conflicts, for political affairs officers in the Africa I and Africa II divisions respectively, and a P-3 under subprogramme 3, Security Council affairs, for a database manager for the Security Council Affairs Division. In addition, a General Service (Other level) post in the Executive Office is proposed to be reclassified to the Principal level.

II.6 The Advisory Committee recalls that the two political affairs officers posts were originally requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on resource requirements for implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/507 and Add. 1) so that desk officers would be able to dedicate their full attention to the countries facing conflicts. The Committee, in its related report (A/55/676, para. 27), recommended that the request be considered in the context of the submission of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. **The Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to establish the P-4 and P-3 posts under subprogramme 1.**

II.7 **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the establishment of a new P-3 post for a database manager for the Security Council Affairs Division to perform the functions described in paragraph A.3.16 of the proposed programme budget.** As to the reclassification of the General Service post from the Other level to the Principal level, the Committee notes that this is related to additional functions with respect to LAN, LotusNotes and database administration, which are essential to the work of the Department of Political Affairs in view of increasing reliance on technological advances. The Committee notes that the support services received by the Department from the Information Technology Services Division do not include LAN administration. **The Committee has no objection to the proposal to reclassify the post at the Principal level.**

II.8 The resource growth of $860,600 (17.9 per cent) indicated in table 3.4 for executive direction and management relates to the redeployment of the Policy Planning Unit (2 P-4 and 2 General Service (Other level) posts from subprogramme 1) to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee, in paragraph II.12 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[3] reported the establishment of this new organizational unit within the Department of Political Affairs, indicating the need to ensure that the Unit would not duplicate or parallel the functions of other units and offices of the United Nations. In this regard, the Committee notes the comments provided in table 3.23 and the indication that the Unit was transferred to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General in view of the cross-cutting nature of its activities, which are relevant to the work of the Department as a whole.

II.9 The Advisory Committee notes from table A.3.9 that $66,100, at the maintenance level, is estimated for external printing of the *Official Records of the Security Council* and reports of its subsidiary bodies. **In this connection, the Committee recommends that, to the extent possible, internal printing facilities be utilized.**

II.10 The Advisory Committee notes that part of the objective under subprogramme 1 is to promote a more cohesive and integrated response by the United Nations system in addressing post-conflict peace-building challenges facing countries emerging from crisis. **As regards the outputs to be delivered, as indicated in paragraph 3.22, the Committee stresses the need to enhance timely coordination so as to avoid duplication, particularly with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and so as to ensure more effective cooperation with the other offices and entities of the United Nations system.**

II.11 The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with information regarding the number of special representatives, envoys and other related high-level positions as at May 2001 (see table II.1).

Table II.1

A. Special representatives, personal representatives, envoys and mission personnel

		Source of funding			*Contractual status*				
Post level	*Total number*	*Regular budget*	*Peace-keeping budget*	*Extra-budgetary funds*	*Fixed-term*	*Limited duration*	*"When actually employed"*	*$1 year*	*Permanent staff on mission assignment*
USG	21	7	6	5	4	5	9	3	-
ASG	16	4	10	-	5	9	-	2	-
D-2	11	10	1	-	3	6	-	-	1

B. Special advisers and other high-level positions

		Source of funding			*Contractual status*				
Post level	*Total number*	*Regular budget*	*Peace-keeping budget*	*Extra-budgetary funds*	*Fixed-term*	*Limited duration*	*"When actually employed"*	*$1 year*	*Permanent staff on mission assignment*
USG	13	3	-	3	4	-	2	7	-
ASG	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
D-2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-

II.12 As for the resources proposed under subprogramme 2, Electoral assistance, the Advisory Committee notes that the $305,900 (10 per cent) increase over the 2000-2001 appropriation relates mostly to the continuation of the existing posts (10 Professional and 4 General Service), including the delayed impact of the two new posts (1 P-4 and 1 P-2) approved by the General Assembly in part I of its resolution 55/238 of 23 December 2000. **In this regard, the Committee recommends that proposals in future budget submissions include information on the relationship between workload and resource needs, as requested by the Committee in its report on the implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/676, para. 26)**. The Committee was informed that for 1999, 8 of 29 requests for electoral assistance were not met and that for 2000, 10 of 23 requests for electoral assistance were not met. **The Committee requests that in the next proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General explain the reasons those requests were not met**.

II.13 A provision of $34,100 is indicated under consultants and experts in connection with the production of the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (table A.3.22). In connection with the extrabudgetary resources of $64,000, shown under the Trust Fund for Updating the *Repertoire*, the Advisory Committee was informed that they would supplement the regular budget resources, thus enabling the Department to set up an additional temporary team to work on the elimination of the backlog, which would be expected to be eliminated in eight years if voluntary contributions remained at the same level. **The Committee trusts that the backlog will be eliminated in the envisaged time frame; if problems**

develop, the Secretary-General should report to the General Assembly with proposed solutions.

II.14 In subprogramme 3, the Advisory Committee notes a new provision of $40,200 under general operating expenses for reimbursement of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) offices in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates for monitoring and inspection assistance in relation to the Hajj pilgrimage flights, which are approved by the Committee established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Afghanistan (see table A.3.22 and para. A.3.21). Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the amount reimbursed in 2000 to those UNDP offices was $10,000 per office, since they were able to absorb the balance of $35,700. For 2001, however, the amounts payable to the two UNDP offices amounted to $10,000 and $15,000 respectively, the balance of $30,700 having been absorbed by UNDP.

II.15 The estimate for the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, as shown in table 3.2, amounts to $8,938,300 before recosting. The estimate is at the maintenance level, and the structure and staffing remaining the same as that presented by the Secretary-General in his report to the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/54/40). As indicated in paragraph 3.54 of the proposed programme budget, the major shift between the previous and current bienniums is one of emphasis, namely, greater emphasis on diplomatic support to the parties in their negotiations and support for any peace settlement, including relating to the security dimension, and an increased emphasis on activity in Lebanon, Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

II.16 The Advisory Committee notes that its recommendation made in paragraph II.52 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, has been taken into account and that resources related to the provision made under grants and contributions for the rental of sound system equipment, temporary assistance, supplies and cost of publishing reports are now budgeted under the corresponding objects of expenditure.

Section 4
Disarmament

II.17 The estimate for section 4 amounts to $14,396,100 (before recosting); it reflects an increase of $575,200, or 4.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation of $13,820,900 for 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $4,110,800.

II.18 The Advisory Committee noted slight differences in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement between the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005[2] (programme 2, Disarmament) and section 4 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. For example, in the case of subprogramme 1, Multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament, although the objective remains the same in both documents, the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are not the same (compare paras. 2.10 and 2.11 of the medium-term plan with table 4.7 of the proposed programme budget).

II.19 The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that when the medium-term plan was formulated, the General Assembly had not yet taken a decision on results-based budgeting. After the adoption of resolution 55/231 of 23 December

2000, the Secretariat modified the indicators of achievement and expected accomplishments for the proposed programme budget.

II.20 A total of 53 regular budget posts (33 Professional and 20 General Service) are proposed (table 4.3). This includes three new Professional posts (1 P-5 and 2 P-4) and two new General Service (Other level) posts. A reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-5 level is also proposed.

II.21 As indicated in paragraph A.4.2, the staffing component of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General (currently consisting of 4 Professional and 2 General Service posts) is proposed to be strengthened by the establishment of three new posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service) and the reclassification of one P-4 to the P-5 level. The future incumbent of the new P-5 post would advise the Under-Secretary-General on new international developments in the field of disarmament and be responsible for policy planning, as well as providing assistance on specific issues at meetings and conferences. The new P-4 post would provide assistance and ensure follow-up in the implementation of mandates received from the General Assembly and other organs.

II.22 The reclassification of the P-4 post to the P-5 level is proposed in view of the increased responsibilities and support functions delegated to the Director and Deputy Director by the Under-Secretary-General. The new General Service post would provide secretarial and research support to that Office.

II.23 **The Advisory Committee cautions against the possibility of converting the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament into an operational unit to the detriment of the work of the Department's branches and the policy-guidance and oversight functions that a head office should perform. The Committee enquired further as to the justification for strengthening the head office, but was not convinced by the arguments presented as to the need for establishing the new P-5 and P-4 posts under executive direction and management. Furthermore, in view of the above and the already existing 18 General Service posts in this section, the Committee does not recommend acceptance of the proposal to establish a new General Service post. The Committee does recommend acceptance of the reclassification of the P-4 post to the P-5 level.**

II.24 A new P-4 post is proposed to be established in the Conventional Arms (including Practical Disarmament Measures) Branch to strengthen the capacity to monitor and analyse trends and developments and to provide advice on new post-conflict policies (para. A.4.15), and a new General Service (Other level) post is proposed for the Executive Office to assist with financial and budgetary matters and financial arrangements related to meetings, workshops and conferences serviced by the Department (para. A.4.27). **On the basis of the information provided on the programme of work, the Advisory Committee was not convinced of the need to establish these two posts at this stage.**

II.25 The Advisory Committee, in paragraph II.21 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, had requested that the level of the D-1 post for the Chief of the Disarmament Branch in Geneva be reviewed. The Committee notes that the General Assembly, in paragraph 86 of its resolution 54/249, decided to reclassify the post at the D-2 level.

II.26 The amount of $1,596,000 proposed for grants and contributions (table A.4.2), at the maintenance level, comprises $1,170,000 for the fellowship programme and $426,000 for the subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. The Advisory Committee was informed that most of the fellows trained were used by their Governments in disarmament diplomacy and notes that the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in a recent evaluation of the Department of Disarmament Affairs, indicated that the disarmament fellowship programme was the most successful United Nations training programme reviewed by the Central Evaluation Unit (E/AC.51/1999/2, para. 61).

II.27 In paragraph II.24 of its previous report, the Advisory Committee had indicated that all three regional disarmament centres (Lomé, Lima and Kathmandu) had become operational, each headed by a P-5 staff member. However, the Director of the Kathmandu centre was operating from New York at the time, as a result of persistent and serious financial constraints, making it impossible for the centre to recruit local support staff. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that a number of steps had been taken towards creating the conditions necessary for the establishment of the centre, such as the identification of facilities and security requirements, negotiations with the host country and submission of a host country agreement and letter of understanding, and that a reply from the Government of Nepal was expected soon.

II.28 In addition, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs had requested the Office of Internal Oversight Services to carry out a specific audit of the regional centres in the near future, and that the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in view of its current resources, had decided to undertake an inspection of the Department for Disarmament Affairs as a whole in the near future, which would include a comprehensive evaluation of the administration of the human and financial resources as well as programme monitoring.

Section 5
Peacekeeping operations

II.29 The regular budget estimate for section 5 amounts to $71,742,700 before recosting, a decrease of $3,141,300, or 4.1 per cent, as compared with the 2000-2001 appropriation of $74,884,000 (table 5.2). The requirements proposed would cover the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). The requirements for the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories (UNSCO), previously shown under this section, are now presented under section 3, Political affairs.

II.30 Extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are projected at $129,317,900, of which $96,083,400 relates to the support account for peacekeeping operations and $32,752,800 relates to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action (paras. 5.8 and 5.9). As indicated in paragraph 5.8 of the proposed programme budget, the estimates for the support account are based on the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/862) and are projected on a biennial basis. The Advisory Committee notes that the amount of $96,083,400 shown in table A.5.4 for the support account provides for 442 posts in the Department of Peacekeeping

Operations approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/238 of 23 December 2000 in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on resource requirements for implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/507 and Add.1) and continued pursuant to Assembly resolution 55/271 of 14 June 2001 on the support account for peacekeeping operations.

II.31 The Advisory Committee notes that the total extrabudgetary and regular budget provisions reflect preliminary requirements, pending the completion of the comprehensive review of the management, structure, recruitment processes and interrelationships of all relevant elements playing a role in the Secretariat in peace operations. As indicated in paragraph 5.8 of the proposed programme budget, should the General Assembly approve the recommendations resulting from the review on the basis of reports to be submitted at its fifty-sixth session, there may be financial implications for the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

II.32 As shown in table 5.3, the total number of regular budget posts proposed for the biennium 2002-2003 is the same as during 2000-2001, namely, 354, with the increase of one D-2 offset by the decrease of one General Service post. The proposed establishment of a D-2 post for the Director of the Europe and Latin America Division would bring the structure of the Division in line with the other similar divisions in the Office (see para. A.5.11). The Advisory Committee recalls that it has recommended that the proposal to establish this post be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/55/676, para. 47). **The Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to establish a D-2 post for the Director of the Europe and Latin America Division under subprogramme 1.**

II.33 The total number of extrabudgetary posts amount to 461 and include the 442 approved posts from the support account mentioned in paragraph II.30 above, as well as 19 posts funded from the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Action. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that of the 93 additional temporary posts approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/238, 74 had been filled by the time the Committee considered the estimates (May 2001).

II.34 Table 5.5 shows a decrease of $2,621,700, or 66.6 per cent, under executive direction and management. As indicated in paragraphs 5.21 and A.5.1 of the proposed programme budget, this is the result of the redeployment of resources for programme support, originally subsumed under the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, which are now presented separately, as recommended by the Advisory Committee and approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/249.

II.35 The proposed budget for UNTSO, as shown in table 5.16 of the proposed programme budget, shows a negative resource growth of $968,600, or negative 2.1 per cent, resulting mostly from decreases under travel and general operating expenses, reflecting expenditure patterns in past bienniums (see paras. A.5.31 and A.5.32).

II.36 The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 5.44 that possible reconfiguration plans for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), to be considered by the Security Council, may have financial implications for UNTSO, and that its resources may be subject to modification should the Council take a decision that would change the current level of resources associated with UNTSO

support of UNIFIL. The Committee notes from the interim report of the Secretary-General on UNIFIL (S/2001/423) that the Secretary-General is proposing that the current strength of 51 unarmed military observers provided by UNTSO to UNIFIL be maintained for the time being, while indicating that the reconfiguration of UNIFIL could be completed during the mandate period ending in July 2002.

II.37 The proposed budget of $12,852,200 for UNMOGIP, as shown in table 5.16, reflects a negative resource growth of $2,414,200, or 15.8 per cent, resulting mostly from reductions under posts, general operating expenses, furniture and equipment and supplies and materials.

II.38 The proposed post requirements decrease from 68 posts in 2000-2001 (2 Professional, 40 Local level and 26 Field Service) to 67 posts in 2002-2003 (2 Professional, 43 Local level and 22 Field Service) (table A.5.26). The reduction of $749,500 under post requirements is explained in paragraph A.5.36.

II.39 The decrease of $729,800 under general operating expenses, shown in table A.5.25, relates to savings under air operations, in view of the reduction in the rental of aircraft, based on experience during 1999 and 2000.

Section 6
Peaceful uses of outer space

II.40 As shown in table 6.1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General estimates regular budget resources for section 6 at $3,691,400 before recosting, an increase of $377,900, or 11.4 per cent, compared with the resources appropriated for the biennium 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $693,000.

II.41 The number of posts is proposed to increase from 18 in 2000-2001 to 20 in 2002-2003, with the establishment of two new P-2 posts, one each in the Committee Services and Research Section and in the Space Applications Section, whose tasks are described in paragraph A.6.1. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to establish the two new P-2 posts.**

II.42 Table A.6.2 indicates resources amounting to $53,800 under contractual services. The Advisory Committee notes that this is to provide for external printing and other contractual services previously included in the programme budget of conference services of the United Nations Office at Vienna.

II.43 An increase in resources of $25,400, or 97.6 per cent, is shown under furniture and equipment, relating to the replacement of office automation equipment, the purchase of additional computers for the two new staff members and other electronic and data-processing equipment.

II.44 Resource requirements of $510,200 are shown under grants and contributions, reflecting an increase of $160,000 over the 2000-2001 appropriation, in order to provide support for the participation of individuals from developing countries in workshops on space law and on the integration of space technology into disaster management, as a result of the emphasis given to the outreach programme. The Advisory Committee notes that the regular budget resources are supplemented by contributions made to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, estimated at $500,000.

Part III
International justice and law

III.1 The estimates under part III of the proposed programme budget total $59,230,300 and cover section 7, International Court of Justice ($23,162,600), and section 8, Legal affairs ($36,067,700), for 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee also considered the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the Registry of the International Court of Justice (see paras. III.12-14 below).

Section 7
International Court of Justice

III.2 Article 33 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice states that the expenses of the Court shall be borne by the United Nations in such a manner as shall be decided by the General Assembly. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that regulation 15.1 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations states that the programme budget proposals of the International Court of Justice should be prepared by the Court, in consultation with the Secretary-General, and that those proposals should be submitted to the Assembly by the Secretary-General, together with such observations as he may deem desirable.

III.3 The estimate for section 7 for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $22,873,500 before recosting, representing an increase of $2,266,800, or 11 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of $20,606,700 for 2000-2001.

III.4 The Advisory Committee notes from table 7.3 of the proposed programme budget that a total of 91 posts (40 in the Professional category and above and 51 General Service) are being requested for 2002-2003, representing an increase of 16 posts (2 Professional and 14 General Service) as compared with a total of 75 posts (38 Professional and 37 General Service) for 2000-2001.

III.5 As indicated in paragraphs 7.10, A.7.3 and A.7.4 of the proposed programme budget, the new posts requested are a P-4 for an administrative and personnel officer, a P-4 for a legal officer and seven new General Service (Other level) posts. In addition, seven General Service (Other level) posts are proposed for conversion from general temporary assistance.

III.6 The Advisory Committee was informed that the Court had requested the 16 additional posts. The Committee notes from paragraph 7.1 of the proposed programme budget that while the bulk of the Court's proposals are fully supported by the Secretary-General, there are some elements which are not. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the Secretary-General supported the establishment of the two proposed new P-4 posts and the conversion of four General Service posts in the Shorthand, Typewriting and Reproduction Division, which are currently funded under general temporary assistance (paras. A.7.3 and A.7.4 (g)). The Secretary-General did not endorse the proposals for the establishment of the seven new General Service posts and the conversion of three General Service posts from general temporary assistance (para. A.7.4 (a)-(f) and (h)).

III.7 The Advisory Committee recalls that, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates for the Court, when the estimates for the biennium 2000-2001 were prepared, the Court had had before it 13 cases

(A/C.5/55/21, para. 5). The Committee also recalls from paragraph III.3 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[3] that the caseload had subsequently increased dramatically, and that it had recommended that the resource implications of that situation be reviewed in order to ensure that the ability of the Court to discharge its mandate would not be adversely affected. In section V of its resolution 55/238, the Assembly approved an additional appropriation of $591,900 under section 7, International Court of Justice, of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The Committee was informed that that amount was for additional general temporary assistance equivalent to 12 posts (3 P-4 and 9 P-3) for translators ($441,300), 2 General Service posts ($49,600) and assistance for meetings ($101,000). With regard to the biennium 2002-2003, the Committee recalls that the Assembly, in its resolution 54/249, noted with concern that the resources proposed for the Court were not proportionate with the workload envisaged, and requested the Secretary-General to propose adequate resources for the section in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

III.8 The Advisory Committee was informed that 23 cases were currently before the Court, many of which would take a number of years to resolve. For example, the Committee was informed that one case filed in 1994 had not yet been taken up because of the time the parties and the Court had taken to complete preparatory work. There are also instances in which some cases are frozen, which has implications for resource requirements in any one year.

III.9 **Notwithstanding the position of the Secretary-General, in view of what is stated in paragraphs III.7 and III.8 above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the request for 16 additional posts (2 P-4 and 14 General Service).**

III.10 **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Court have recourse to appropriate outside expertise to study how to modernize its proceedings and work flow processes. In this connection, the practices of other judicial bodies should also be taken into account. The potential for recourse to internships should be explored, as well as the extent to which new technology could be used in such areas as remote translation and the use of digital recording of court proceedings to be translated.**

III.11 With regard to the use of modern technology, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Court continued to make vigorous efforts to enhance its use of modern technology as a means of improving the efficiency of its operation, as well as to facilitate access to information by judges and Registry staff and to disseminate information about its case law. These efforts include placing the web site of the Court on the Internet, creating a research database using ZyImage, which enables users to search for publications and distributions of the Court, introducing external electronic mail and upgrading the information technology infrastructure.

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the Registry of the International Court of Justice

III.12 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 17 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget that at the time the budget proposals were being finalized, the General Assembly had yet to consider the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management and administration in the registry of

the Court (A/55/834) and the related comments of the Court and the Secretary-General (A/55/834/Add.1). The proposals of the Court were thus finalized without prejudice to such action as the Assembly might take on the report. The Committee also notes from paragraph 7.1 that should there be a need for any adjustments as a result of the Assembly's consideration of the report, they would be presented in the context of a statement of programme budget implications, which would be taken into account at the time of the Assembly's adoption of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The Assembly, in its resolution 55/257 of 14 June 2001, requested the Committee to consider the matter and to make such recommendations as it deemed appropriate for decision by the Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

III.13 In recommendation 1 of its report, the Joint Inspection Unit called for the establishment of three law clerks or research assistants to constitute a pool in the Court's Department of Legal Matters for performing research at the request of individual judges. The Court, in its comments on the report, indicated that it was considering proposing to the General Assembly the establishment of 15 posts for law clerks at the P-2 level (A/55/834/Add.1, annex I, para. 11).

III.14 The Joint Inspection Unit also recommended, in recommendation 7 of its report, the establishment of the position of a Senior Administrative/Personnel Officer to assist the Registrar in dealing with staff management and staff administration as well as to provide the necessary administrative support for the judges. In its comments, the Court endorsed that recommendation (ibid., para. 16). The Secretary-General also supported the recommendation (A/55/834/Add.1, annex II, para. 6). The establishment of a P-4 post for administrative and personnel services has been requested in the proposed programme budget (see para. III.5 above).

III.15 **Pending the outcome of the research carried out pursuant to paragraph III.10 above and in order to increase the capacity of legal services, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of general temporary assistance equivalent to five posts at the P-2 level.**

Efficient management of the ad hoc judge system of the International Court of Justice

III.16 During its consideration of section 7 of the proposed programme budget, the Advisory Committee was provided with information on the efficient management of the ad hoc judge system of the International Court of Justice, which it had requested in paragraph III.6 of its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. Information has been provided on the appointment, expenditures and financing of expenses of ad hoc judges. The Committee was informed that since 1996, expenditures resulting from the appointment of ad hoc judges have amounted to $1,038,883, of which $152,733 relates to travel costs and $886,150 to the payment of duty allowances. However, the Committee points out that there are also indirect costs arising from the appointment of ad hoc judges which, while difficult to quantify, nevertheless have an impact. In this connection, the Committee understands that the provision of administrative and other related resources to such judges (currently there are 29) has an effect on the level of secretarial resources available to the Court.

III.17 **The Advisory Committee notes that because the submission of the Court is not part of the medium-term plan, results-based budgeting has not been**

applied. Nevertheless, in future, the Court's estimates should be justified more clearly in terms of workload.

Section 8
Legal affairs

III.18 As shown in table 8.2 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General's estimate for section 8 for 2002-2003 amounts to $33,894,900 before recosting, representing an increase of $14,300 as compared with appropriations of $33,880,600 for 2000-2001. In addition, an amount of $5,792,300 is expected under extrabudgetary resources, as compared with the estimates of $4,021,900 for 2000-2001.

III.19 As shown in table 8.3, the total number of regular budget posts proposed for the biennium 2002-2003 is 145 (82 Professional category and above and 63 General Service), representing an increase of one regular budget Professional post as compared with 2000-2001. As indicated in the same table, the total number of extrabudgetary posts proposed for 2002-2003 is 18 (12 in the Professional category and above and 6 General Service), the same number as for 2000-2001.

III.20 As indicated in paragraphs 8.8 and 8.9, one new P-4 post for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law programme and one reclassification of a P-3 post to the P-4 level under the regular budget are proposed. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of those requests.**

III.21 The United Nations Administrative Tribunal (including its secretariat) is described in paragraphs 8.21 to 8.23 of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003. One General Service post is proposed to be redeployed from the Treaty section to the Tribunal. The Advisory Committee notes the lack of information on workload and requested that additional justification be provided. The Committee was informed that for approximately 10 years, the secretariat of the Administrative Tribunal has had two General Service posts, one under the regular budget and the other from extrabudgetary resources. Funding for the extrabudgetary post was curtailed in 1998, owing to the fact that cases from UNDP, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had diminished. In the interim, the additional regular budget workload was supported by the use of general temporary assistance.

III.22 **In connection with the Treaty Section, the Advisory Committee welcomes the intention to eliminate the backlog in 2002 and trusts that this date will be respected (see para. 8.44).**

Part IV
International cooperation for development

IV.1. The Secretary-General's estimate for part IV of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $267,817,100, and covers the following sections: section 9, Economic and social affairs ($120,963,500); section 10, Africa: New Agenda for Development ($6,892,000); section 11A, Trade and development ($82,763,900); section 11B, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO ($16,916,100); section 12, Environment ($7,840,600); section 13, Human settlements ($12,299,900); section 14, Crime prevention and criminal justice ($5,431,100); and section 15, International drug control ($14,710,000).

Section 9
Economic and social affairs

IV.2. The Secretary-General's regular budget requirements under section 9 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $112,973,800 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $542,000, or 0.4 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for 2000-2001 of $112,431,800.

IV.3. Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $117,712,000, compared with the estimated amount of $163,286,600 for 2000-2001. This substantial decrease, as indicated in paragraph 9.10 of the proposed programme budget, is a result of the reduced level of funding from the traditional funding agencies (UNDP and UNFPA) for country project activities, the reduced level of involvement by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the execution of a large electricity network rehabilitation project and decreased response to the requests for bilateral and multilateral donor funding for technical cooperation activities, except in the area of public administration (subprogramme 8), where there is an expected increase due to commitments that have been made to the Department. In this respect, the representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the extrabudgetary projections in the budget submission were conservative (see also para. IV.20 below).

IV.4. Resources for the biennium include a provision for $4,258,600 before recosting under policy-making organs to cover services provided to 13 bodies and events indicated in table 9.4, including one-time provisions for the Second World Assembly on Ageing ($263,900) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development ($757,300). The Advisory Committee was further informed that any additional resources that the International Conference on Financing for Development could entail would be treated in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

IV.5. In addition, the Economic and Social Council, at its resumed session, in October 2000, established the United Nations Forum on Forests as a subsidiary body of the Council, just prior to the adoption by the General Assembly of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005.[2] The Advisory Committee notes that decisions on the location of the secretariat and the secondment of staff were to be taken by the Council during its substantive session in July 2001, and that the matter will be considered by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session in light of the decisions taken by the Council on the recommendations of the Forum.

IV.6. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the attempt to be specific with regard to the indicators of achievement in section 9. Care should be taken in future, however, to draft expected accomplishments that are indeed attainable.**

IV.7. As shown in table 9.3, the total number of posts funded from regular budget resources is proposed to increase by 6, from a total of 517 posts approved for 2000-2001 (287 Professional and 230 General Service posts) to 523 for 2002-2003 (298 Professional and 225 General Service posts). Extrabudgetary posts decrease by 3 from a total of 40 (17 Professional and 23 General Service) for 2000-2001 to 37 for 2002-2003 (17 Professional and 20 General Service).

IV.8. The Advisory Committee notes the proposal to establish nine new P-2 posts, seven of which are offset by the abolition of an equal number of General Service posts. The Committee was informed that the establishment of these new junior, entry-level posts in the areas of sustainable development (2 under subprogramme 4), statistics (3 under subprogramme 5), economics (1 under subprogramme 7) and information technology (2 under programme support), besides responding to operational needs, would help the Department to update its skills in those areas and to prepare for a not-too-distant future in which there will be a number of retirements, a P-2 post is also proposed to be established, along with a P-4 post for a human rights officer and a General Service level post, under subprogramme 2, Gender issues and advancement of women, to carry out functions related to the petition procedure and the inquiry mechanism of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (para. A.9.21). The Committee was informed that those posts were proposed following a series of joint technical reviews of the workload emanating from three other similar protocols between the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. **The Committee recommends acceptance of seven of the nine new P-2 posts proposed to be established, to be assigned in whatever manner the Secretary-General may deem appropriate, taking into account the specific tasks to be performed, and also recommends acceptance of the P-4 post for a human rights officer. Concerning the General Service post, the Committee believes that this should be dealt with through the redeployment of resources.**

IV.9. The Advisory Committee recalls that in March 1999 it concurred with a request of the Secretary-General to establish a D-1 post for gender mainstreaming to be funded from extrabudgetary resources for two years. At the time, the Committee indicated that, should there be a need to continue the post beyond that period, the Secretary-General should submit a further proposal that included the mode of funding. The Committee further agreed with the continuation of the post until 31 May 2001, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources, and decided to take up the matter during its spring 2001 session and, once again, on 1 June 2001, when it concurred with the continuation of the post, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources until 31 December 2001. The Committee indicated that it would continue its discussion concerning the mode of funding the post in the context of its consideration of section 9 of the proposed programme budget, taking into account the legislative background.

IV.10. **It is the opinion of the Advisory Committee that functions such as those described above, which are mandated by the General Assembly and are of a continuing nature, merit funding from regular budget resources. The**

Committee, therefore, recommends to the Assembly the establishment of a D-1 post, under the regular budget, to carry out gender-mainstreaming functions.

IV.11 The Advisory Committee notes that also included under staff costs are the full biennial provision for two temporary posts (1 P-4 and 1 General Service) approved for 2001 for the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, the reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-5 level and the concurrent downward reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-3 level for the NGO section under subprogramme 1 (para. A.9.15). **The Committee recommends acceptance of these proposals.**

IV.12. As indicated in table A.9.2, requirements for other staff costs amount to $2,151,900 — an increase of $207,200, or 10.6 per cent, over the 2000-2001 appropriation. Requirements for consultants and experts amount to $3,685,200 — an increase of $475,200, or 14.8 per cent, over the 2000-2001 appropriation. The Advisory Committee notes that the standard reason given for the request for consultants is to provide expertise not available in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs or in the Secretariat (paras. A.9.3, A.9.17, A.9.23, A.9.35 A.9.40, A.9.45 and A.9.55). The estimates for other staff costs, which include considerable resources, are often justified in terms of providing flexible support for ongoing or planned activities (paras. A.9.16 and A.9.29).

IV.13. **From the narrative in the proposed programme budget and the testimony of the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee concludes that consultancy funds are requested mainly to supplement expertise in the Secretariat and that resources under other staff costs appear to be requested mostly to avoid the need to ask for additional established posts. Moreover, the resources requested under both items, totalling $5,837,100, is roughly equivalent to 30 P-2/P-3 posts. The Committee recommends, therefore, that this amount be reduced by $300,000 to $5,537,100.**

IV.14. The Advisory Committee requested additional information with regard to the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs, which provides substantive support capacity to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), including secretariat services for the ACC machinery as a whole. The Committee notes that following the review process initiated by the Secretary-General in consultation with the executive heads of the other organizations of the common system, the Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its October 2000 session, decided to streamline its subsidiary machinery (see sect. 29 below).

IV.15. The Advisory Committee requested and received the following information on the staff positions and related functions of the Office of Inter-Agency Affairs as at May 2001:

Professional category and above (All Professionals also have responsibilities for liaison with specific agencies, funds and programmes of the system with regard to their activities and for the dissemination of relevant information within the system.)

1 D-2: On assignment from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General; responsible for the overall direction and management of the Office

1 D-1: On non-reimbursable loan from UNDP; responsible for annual ACC overview report, follow-up on Africa, strategic framework, Strategic

Planning Unit, globalization and matters relating to finance and development

1 P-5: On non-reimbursable loan from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; assists the Director in matters pertaining to the organization and follow-up to ACC. Also responsible for the coordination of the review of ACC and assistance in the implementation of its recommendations, including providing support for the High-level Committee on Programmes; responsible for preparation of reports for the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Economic and Social Council

1 P-5: On assignment from the Division of Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; responsible for liaison with subsidiary machinery and focal point for information and management issues and issues dealing with civil society; secretary of the inter-agency meeting on sustainable development

General Service

1 G-7: On assignment from the Division of Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; meeting servicing assistance

1 G-5: On assignment from the Division of Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination; assistant to the Director

1 G-3: On assignment from the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department (mission replacement for a G-6)

1 G-5: On non-reimbursable from UNFPA; secretarial assistant

Anticipated staffing additions

Negotiations are under way to obtain on loan an additional Professional staff member from a member organization to assist in dealing with a number of new mandates from ACC.

IV.16. In line with the resources included for 2000-2001, the Advisory Committee notes that the maintenance of a provision of $399,000 for United Nations contribution to the activities of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service is proposed (table A.9.6). Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with information regarding the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the number of applications processed, the backlog and the workload involved.

Table IV.1
Number of non-governmental organizations in or having applied for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

	Biennium		
Number	*1998-1999*	*2000-2001*	*2002-2003[a]*
NGOs in consultative status	1 938	2 120	2 300
Applications submitted for review and processing by the NGO Section	320	800[b]	960
Applications processed	150	200	250
Applications from previous years awaiting processing	170	600	710
Applications submitted to the Committee on NGOs	250	350	400

[a] Projected.

[b] The number of application requests is expected to rise by an unknown number in 2001 as a result of a decision of the Economic and Social Council (E/2000/310) to invite NGOs accredited to the twenty-third and/or the twenty-fourth special sessions of the General Assembly to attend the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the thirty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, provided that they had started the process of applying for consultative status.

IV.17. **The Advisory Committee remains convinced of the need to examine the administrative and budgetary implications of the increasing number of NGOs involved in the work of the Organization on the operations of the various departments and offices, including proposals on how to handle this from either the regular budget or extrabudgetary sources. The Committee notes the response provided to the Committee's recommendation contained in table 9.27 of the proposed programme budget. The Committee was further informed that the report of the Secretary-General containing the analysis of the workload and resources of the NGO Section of the Department was "well advanced" and would be available shortly.**

IV.18. A reduction of $800,000 is shown, under grants and contributions, for the one-time provision approved for 2000-2001 for United Nations International Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/219 of 23 December 2000 (see tables 9.6, A.9.9 and A.9.27). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that while the financial situation of INSTRAW for 2001 was assured, INSTRAW would face another financial crisis at the end of 2001 or the beginning of 2002. Bearing in mind this situation, the INSTRAW Board of Trustees, at its twenty-first session, held from 22 to 24 May 2001, requested the Economic and Social Council to recommend to the Assembly the transfer of any funds remaining of the $800,000 supplement provided by the United Nations for 2001 as a reserve for 2002.

IV.19. The Advisory Committee recalls that it addressed the management of technical cooperation activities in paragraphs IV.22 and IV.23 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001.[3] The Committee notes that extrabudgetary resources projected for the biennium 2002-2003, as indicated in

paragraph IV.3 above, amount to $117,712,000, reflecting a reduction of 27.9 per cent when compared with the biennium 2000-2001. However, as shown in table 9.3, the number of posts funded from extrabudgetary resources decrease by only three, or 7.5 per cent, compared with the number provided for 2000-2001.

IV.20. As indicated in paragraph IV.3 above, the Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the projections regarding extrabudgetary resources in the budget submission were conservative ones, but despite trends in UNDP resources, basically the same project portfolio had been maintained during the current biennium as in the biennium 1998-1999, the decline in UNDP resources having been offset by increases in bilateral and multilateral resources. The Committee was also informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that for the biennium 2002-2003, taking into account the new strategies the Department was putting into place, involving increased responsibility for fund mobilization at the management level, the development of cross-sectoral projects that would attract donor interest, refocusing of the work of the Department's advisory capacity and so on, that they believed they would in fact be able to surpass that projection and, hopefully, more than offset the decline in UNDP funds.

IV.21. The Advisory Committee enquired as to the basis of the number of staff charged to support costs and for retaining practically the same amount to fund support posts for 2002-2003 ($8,979,800) as for 2000-2001 as shown in table 9.2. The Committee was informed that of the 37 extrabudgetary posts, 5 would be charged to support income from trust fund activities. The Secretariat assured the Committee that, in view of the expectation of additional resources, sufficient income would be available to fund those posts.

IV.22. The representatives of the Secretary-General also referred to measures taken or initiated to improve the management of technical cooperation, such as strengthening the capacity for evaluation. The Advisory Committee notes the provision of advisory services, which, supplemented by research and training, support the efforts of Governments in formulating development strategies and building national capacities for sustained economic growth and social progress. The areas covered by those services include the advancement of women, governance and public administration, integrated follow-up to United Nations conferences, population, social and economic policy, statistics and sustainable development.

IV.23. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the information provided in the area of technical cooperation, in particular paragraphs 9.62 (d), 9.69 (d), 9.73 (d) and 9.85 (d), which indicate advisory services as some of the outputs. The Committee reviewed the budget estimates for UNDP for the biennium 2002-2003 and met with the Administrator during its June 2001 session. The Committee noted that knowledge-based advisory services and other development services were also part of the outputs in UNDP field operations.

IV.24. **From the testimony of the representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee concludes that there is an urgent need for these matters to be discussed in the context of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Group. Such discussions should aim at clearly identifying the roles of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNDP and other agencies, including funds, programmes and regional commissions, in the delivery of**

advisory services to Member States, with a view to streamlining operations at the country level, avoiding duplication and achieving optimum and effective use of resources, whether from regular assessed budgets or from extrabudgetary sources. In this regard, the Committee notes the observations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding the role of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in system-wide coordination (A/55/750, paras. 17-26).

IV.25. The Advisory Committee also notes the Department's role in coordinating and executing projects under the Development Account. The Committee was informed that the Department's project portfolio under the Account, including projects to be executed in the third tranche, amounted to some $15 million (see also paras. IV.26 and IV.28 below).

IV.26. The Advisory Committee notes that the budgetary proposals for section 9 reflect the third budgetary cycle since the merger of the three previous economic and social departments into the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Office of Internal Oversight Services in 2000 conducted an inspection of the outcome of the consolidation and made eight recommendations, which were fully accepted by the Secretary-General (see A/55/750). The Committee requested additional information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 57 to 64 of that report, particularly those dealing with the need to secure sufficient resources for evaluation of the United Nations operational activities for development (para. 58); the need to review arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on Development Account projects (para. 61); and to urgently mobilize resources to restore the United Nations Population Information Network (POPIN) to full capacity (para. 64).

IV.27. Concerning resources for evaluation of the operational activities for development, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs was responsible for the triennial comprehensive policy review in that regard, including a significant evaluation component. Resources will continue to be provided from the regular budget to manage independent impact evaluations and to build on the successes of the pilot activities carried out in this area, which is now a mandated activity. However, extrabudgetary resources will continue to be required. The Department indicated that it had received some such resources for the triennial review and would continue to approach Governments and other United Nations system organizations to that end. In addition, training seminars have been held with academia for staff of the Department involved in evaluations, and research institutions have been approached to engage in the evaluation process, thereby leveraging departmental resources. As to its own operational activities, the Department informed the Committee that it was using its technical cooperation meetings to further develop mechanisms for the evaluation of technical cooperation provided to developing countries, and its intention is to draw on existing procedures within the system, but using simple formats oriented to the results to be expected from advisory services.

IV.28. As to the need to review arrangements for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Development Account, the Advisory Committee was informed that a special facility for monitoring the Development Account would be developed as part of the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System (IMDIS) by October 2001 and that resources for monitoring and evaluation for individual

projects and for the section on Development Account as a whole were to be identified and programmed. The Committee's views on the Development Account and on the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the account (A/55/913) are contained in section 33 below.

IV.29. In connection with the recommendation on the mobilization of resources to restore POPIN to full capacity and ensure long-term sustainability, the Advisory Committee was informed that discussions between the Population Division and UNFPA were under way for that purpose, including the restructuring of activities for maximum cost-effectiveness, and that, by the end of the biennium, the matter was expected to be resolved. In the meantime, the Committee notes that related resources amounting to $139,000 are included under contractual services (table A.9.21).

IV.30. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the number of publications of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs had been reduced from 330 to 292, excluding non-recurrent and parliamentary publications. The Committee notes that the bulk of these publications relate to the programmes on statistics, population and development policy and that they are either authorized or mandated in decisions of the intergovernmental bodies or based on the Secretariat's interpretation of mandates derived from programme directives of legislative bodies.

IV.31. **The Advisory Committee has made extensive comments and recommendations on the issue of publications in the context of its reports on the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1996-1997,[7] 1998-1999[5] and 2000-2001.[3] Those comments and recommendations remain valid. The Committee stresses the need and importance of rigorous examination of the Department's publications programme by the intergovernmental bodies. The Committee addresses this issue in chapter I above.**

IV.32. The Advisory Committee also enquired as to the amount of resources in section 9 allotted to public information material and the mechanism of collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in this regard. The Committee was informed that a senior communications officer (P-5 level) in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General was assigned responsibility for assisting senior management of the Department in projecting a clear and cohesive profile of the Department's work. In addition, there is input from various substantive divisions in the Department, as part of their work programmes regarding media presentations, information materials, newsletters and press releases (jointly with the Department of Public Information). Furthermore, there is technical support from the Information Support Unit for the electronic dissemination of public information material.

IV.33. The Advisory Committee was further informed that the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Public Information had developed a partnership to promote global awareness and understanding of the economic and social issues dealt with at the United Nations. Both departments collaborate closely in connection with the launching of major publications, meetings of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and preparations for and convening of summits and conferences, as well as for major events, when planning and coordination groups are formed at the supervisory and working levels. Moreover, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides substantive inputs and guidance and the Department of Public Information provides communication strategy and writing and editing expertise, as well as expertise and

facilities for graphic presentation and printing. In addition, the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs participates in the weekly meetings of the Communications Group, which is chaired by the Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Public Information.

IV.34. With respect to IMDIS, the Advisory Committee recalls that the system was initially designed as a management tool that would facilitate the monitoring of progress in the implementation of programmed output by managers at different levels. The Committee was further informed that, since December 2000, the system has facilitated programme planning in addition to monitoring, and that it included all programme components of all sections of the programme budget in the database, linked to the respective sections of the medium-term plan. Control of the planning process passes between programme managers, the Programme Planning and Budget Division and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in accordance with their responsibilities over the course of the planning and implementation cycle. The Committee also notes that the Office of Internal Oversight Services indicated that it had used the system as the main instrument for reporting on programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1998-1999, incorporating a number of other departments, offices and programmes into it (A/55/750, para. 42).

IV.35. As indicated in paragraph A.9.66 of the proposed programme budget, the two additional P-2 posts, also mentioned in paragraph IV.8 above, respond to the expansion and further development of the IMDIS with a view to expanding its use and benefits to offices throughout the Secretariat. **The Advisory Committee notes, however, that the capacity of the system to monitor implementation performance is still limited. Standards do not currently exist for entering performance indicators or expected accomplishments, nor is it linked to the financial system. Moreover, the systematic entry of data by programme managers is not ensured. In this connection, the Committee requests that a progress report in connection with the mid-term review of the experience with results-based budgeting be submitted in 2002, prior to the examination of the estimates for 2004-2005.**

Section 10
Africa: New Agenda for Development

IV.36. Under section 10 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General estimates regular budget requirements of $6,492,700 (before recosting), which reflects an increase of $632,900, or 10.8 per cent, compared with the appropriation of $5,859,800 for the biennium 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $1,712,400, compared with estimates of $966,700 for 2000-2001.

IV.37. As indicated in paragraph 10.4, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Department of Public Information are responsible for implementing programme activities for subprogrammes 1, 2 and 3 respectively. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, provides overall coordination and leadership.

IV.38. The proposed post requirements under this section for 2002-2003 include 26 regular budget posts (16 Professional and 10 General Service), as compared with 23 posts for 2000-2001 (14 Professional and 9 General Service) and 5 extrabudgetary posts, as compared with 4 for 2000-2001 (see table 10.3).

IV.39. The Advisory Committee notes that the resource growth under this section is due mostly to the establishment of three new posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)) under subprogramme 1, Mobilization of international support and global coordination (see para. A.10.1); the proposed reclassification from P-5 to D-1 of the post of the officer responsible for implementing subprogramme 2, Monitoring, assessment, facilitation and follow-up of the implementation of action programmes for African development; and the delayed impact of posts established during 2000-2001 under subprogramme 2 (1 P-4 and 1 General Service), and under subprogramme 3, Campaign for global awareness of the critical economic situation in Africa (1 P-3 and 1 General Service).

IV.40. The functions of the new posts are described in paragraph A.10.1. The Advisory Committee was informed that both the P-5 and the General Service post had been funded by UNDP until the end of 1999, when such funding ceased because of budgetary constraints. In view of the operational importance of the tasks involved, regular budget funding is being proposed for 2002-2003. As for the P-4 post, the Committee notes that the functions include dealing with activities related to least developed countries, as well as serving as focal point for trade issues.

IV.41. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal to establish the three new posts under subprogramme 1 (1 P-5, 1 P-4 and 1 General Service) and to reclassify the post under subprogramme 2 to the D-1 level. However, the Committee draws attention to table 11A.8, which refers to the new subprogramme 1B, Development of Africa, under section 11A, Trade and development, and points to the need for close cooperation with UNCTAD in order to optimize the use of resources and avoid duplication.**

IV.42. The Advisory Committee also recalls the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the independent evaluation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa (E/AC.51/2001/6 and Corr.1), submitted in response to the request of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fortieth session, and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on that report (E/AC.51/2001/7). **The Committee agrees that the evaluation of the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa has provided the United Nations and its implementing partners with an important opportunity and that, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his comments, it is incumbent upon all involved to absorb the valuable lessons learned from that experience and to take them into account in the design of all future coordinating mechanisms for the work of the United Nations in Africa.**

IV.43. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the expected accomplishments, performance indicators and external factors in relation to section 10 should be redrafted in order to indicate more clearly the role of the Secretariat in implementing this programme and to provide a better instrument for determining whether expected accomplishments have been attained.

Section 11A
Trade and development

IV.44. As shown in table 11.A.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the proposed regular budget resources under section 11A amount to $81,648,100 before recosting, reflecting a resource growth of $274,500,

or 0.3 per cent, against the 2000-2001 appropriation. Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $48,949,700 for the biennium 2002-2003, as compared with estimates of $54,064,700 for 2000-2001.

IV.45. The Advisory Committee notes from table 11A.3 that the proposed staffing of 403 posts includes 233 Professional posts (an increase of 2) and maintains the current number of 170 General Service posts.

IV.46. The staffing changes, which reflect adjustments arising from the outcome of the tenth session of UNCTAD and its programmatic priorities, include the addition of two new posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) under subprogramme 1B, Development of Africa, to strengthen research, policy analysis and monitoring activities undertaken in respect of African economies (see para. A.11A.10). **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to establish the two new posts under subprogramme 1B.**

IV.47. A new Division of Management, which will integrate all programme support functions and enhance the ability of UNCTAD to manage its resources and coordinate its programme delivery, will be created through the redeployment of a number of posts, described in paragraph A.11A.36. The reclassification of a D-1 post to the D-2 level is proposed under programme support to head the new Division, as well as the reclassification of two posts from P-3 to P-4, one each in subprogrammes 1 and 2, and of a General Service post to the Principal level in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, under executive direction and management. **The Advisory Committee was not convinced of the need to create an additional D-2 post through the reclassification of a D-1 post and accordingly recommends against it; it also recommends against the reclassification of a General Service post to the Principal level. The Committee recommends approval of the reclassification of the two posts to the P-4 level in subprogrammes 1 and 2.**

IV.48. The Advisory Committee notes that the main objective of the programme on trade and development, as set out in paragraph 11A.1, is to maximize the trade and development opportunities of developing countries and to assist them in their integration into the world economy. To that end, the programme of work comprises five subprogrammes, the objectives of which originate in the medium-term plan. The Committee was informed that the objectives had been considered and approved by the UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery, in particular, the UNCTAD Working Party on the medium-term plan.

IV.49. **In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the objectives of the subprogrammes, the expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement are not as clearly formulated or as specific as the main objective set out in paragraph 11A.1. The Committee is of the opinion that in order to promote accountability for expected accomplishments, objectives must be specific, clear and attainable (see chap. I above).**

IV.50. The negative resource growth under policy-making organs of $137,100, or 18.8 per cent, compared with 2000-2001, is the result of the cyclical reduction in requirements for the preparatory process for sessions of UNCTAD. The Committee was informed that the level of resources requested in the biennium 2002-2003 for preparation of the eleventh session of UNCTAD ($18,600 for overtime, $100,600 for travel of staff and $46,500 for miscellaneous expenses) reflected estimates for a non-Conference biennium, based on previous experience. However, resources will

be requested at a higher level in the biennium 2004-2005, assuming the Conference is scheduled for the first part of 2004, as is anticipated. The outcome of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries will also be considered by the General Assembly during its fifty-sixth session.

IV.51. Paragraph 11A.7 refers to the unspent balance of $5,526,600 from the regular budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and the General Assembly decisions in that regard, as contained in its resolutions 53/3 of 12 October 1998 and 54/251 of 23 December 1999. The Advisory Committee notes that, as at 20 March 2001, an amount of $293,553 remained uncommitted. The Committee was informed that that balance could fund the expenses related to the attendance of four experts to each preparatory meeting for the eleventh session of UNCTAD (for a total of 10 meetings).

IV.52. The resource growth of $846,800, or 5.4 per cent, under programme support is mostly the result of additional requirements under posts, related to the establishment of the Division of Management indicated in paragraph IV.47 above, as well as an increase of $103,400 under contractual services in order to provide for external printing (table A.11A.21). **The Advisory Committee recommends that the in-house printing facilities of the United Nations Office at Geneva be used whenever possible. Moreover, the Committee is convinced that there is great opportunity for strengthening common services at Geneva. The Committee trusts that the new Division of Management will help to achieve that goal.**

IV.53. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the inclusion in the programme planning and budget of a table containing data on the number of publications by component (table A.11A.23), as requested by the Committee in paragraph IV.56 of its report on the biennium 2000-2001.[3] The Committee further requests that the form of dissemination of the output (hard copy or electronic version, for example) also be included. The Committee reiterates, as indicated in paragraph IV.31 above in the case of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the need for rigorous examination of the publications programme by the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD.**

IV.54. The Advisory Committee notes from table A.11A.2 that regular budget resources for travel of staff are proposed at $1,342,700, the same amount appropriated for 2000-2001. As for extrabudgetary resources, an amount of $8,884,000 is projected, as compared with $8,903,300 estimated for 2000-2001. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the travel of staff line included travel by project experts, UNCTAD staff and consultants (for project travel not budgeted separately under consultants and experts). For 2000, as a reference, total expenditure on travel financed from extrabudgetary funds amounted to $3,813,208, of which $2,553,791 related to travel of experts and consultants and $1,259,417 related to travel of UNCTAD regular staff. The Committee was further informed that, as at 11 June 2001, 78 experts were engaged on project posts financed from UNDP and technical cooperation trust funds (53 based in Geneva and 25 in other duty stations). **However, the Committee remains convinced, as indicated in paragraph IV.46 of its previous report, that, as the operations of UNCTAD become increasingly affected by new technology, the rate of growth in travel expenditure should decrease. The Committee encourages the exercise of prudence with regard to the use of travel resources.**

Section 11B
International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO

IV.55. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its decision 53/411 B of 18 December 1998, endorsed the revised administrative arrangements for the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO (ITC), as set out in the related report of the Committee (A/53/7/Add.3, para. 11). The Secretary-General submitted a report on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for ITC (A/55/797), as called for in the decision. The outline estimated total resources of 60,544,600 Swiss francs, with income indicated at SwF 500,000 annually and the United Nations share of the costs at SwF 29,772,300 for the biennium. The Committee recommended approval of the budget outline (A/55/7/Add.10). The Assembly, during its resumed fifty-fifth session, took note of the report of the Secretary-General containing the outline and concurred with the related observations and recommendations of the Committee (decision 55/483).

IV.56. As indicated in paragraph 11B.6, a detailed proposed programme budget for ITC for the biennium 2002-2003 will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Section 12
Environment

IV.57. As indicated in table 12.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, regular budget resources proposed under section 12 amount to $7,558,500 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $744,200, or 10.9 per cent, over the revised appropriation for 2000-2001 of $6,814,300. Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $199,307,500, compared with an estimated amount of $188,004,000 for 2000-2001.

IV.58. The resource growth in regular budget requirements is the result of increases under posts, due mostly to the establishment of six new posts (explained in paras. IV.60 and IV.61 below), as well as increases under rental and maintenance of office automation equipment and data-processing equipment (see also para. IV.63 below).

IV.59. The total number of regular budget posts proposed is 45 (28 Professional and 17 General Service), compared with 39 approved for 2000-2001 (22 Professional and 17 General Service). The total number of extrabudgetary posts increases from 467 in 2000-2001 to 501 in 2002-2003.

IV.60. The additional resources of $558,400, shown in table A.12.2 under posts, represent the net result of the establishment of six new Professional posts (1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3 and 1 P-2) in the Office of the Executive Director — explaining most of the increase under executive direction and management — and the differential costs of two P-5 posts that would be transferred from the New York office to Nairobi under subprogramme 2, Policy development and law, and to Washington D.C., under subprogramme 5, Regional cooperation and representation, as a result of the relocation of the regional office.

IV.61. The functions of the new posts are described in paragraph A.12.3. The new posts are intended to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to implement its mandate more fully and to ensure, in particular, its strong involvement in the preparatory process for the 10-year review of the progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations

Conference on Environment and Development and in the implementation of the outcome of the review (para. 12.9). **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the six proposed new posts.**

IV.62 The Advisory Committee notes further that, in compliance with General Assembly resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000, the resources for conference servicing of the meetings of the Governing Council and its subsidiary organs ($1,286,600), previously provided under this section, are now shown under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services. In this connection, only the requirements for overtime ($33,800) and hospitality ($10,600) are retained under section 12 (see tables A.12.1 and A.12.2).

IV.63 Table A.12.2 also shows increases of $119,200 under general operating expenses for the rental and maintenance of office automation equipment and of $66,600 under furniture and equipment to replace data-processing equipment (see also para. 12.8). As explained in the proposed programme budget (see, for example, paras. A.12.5 and A.12.6), those costs, formerly charged to extrabudgetary resources, are more appropriately charged to the regular budget. **The Advisory Committee agrees with this proposal and requests that the feasibility of applying this method to other sections of the budget be studied.**

Section 13
Human settlements

IV.64 Under section 13, the Secretary-General estimates regular budget resources for 2002-2003 at $11,777,900 before recosting, reflecting a resource growth of $383,300 or 3.3 per cent, over the 2000-2001 revised appropriation of $11,394,600 (see table 13.2).

IV.65 Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $111,445,200 for 2002-2003, compared with an estimated amount of $197,482,100 for 2000-2001.

IV.66 The total number of regular budget posts is proposed to increase by 5 to a total of 71 (46 Professional and 25 General Service), compared with 66 approved posts for 2000-2001 (42 Professional and 24 General Service). Posts funded from extrabudgetary resources show an increase of 6 posts, from 102 in 2000-2001 (55 Professional and 47 General Service to 108 in 2002-2003 (60 Professional and 48 General Service) (see table 13.3).

IV.67 The new posts to be established under the regular budget include two P-4 posts (1 for a human settlements officer in the Asia and the Pacific Regional Office and 1 for the head of the Gender Unit) and a Local level post under subprogramme 1, Adequate shelter for all. Under subprogramme 2, Sustainable human settlements development, the establishment of a P-5 post for an information coordinator and a P-4 post for a human settlements officer in the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office are also proposed. In addition, three P-4 posts would be reclassified to the P-5 level for the head of the office of the Executive Director, the head of the Housing Policy Unit and the head of the Risk and Disaster Unit. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the new posts and reclassifications.**

IV.68 As in the case of section 12, Environment, the Advisory Committee notes that in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/234, the resources for conference servicing of the meetings of the Commission on Human Settlements

($902,700), previously provided under this section, are now shown under section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services. In this connection, only the requirements for overtime ($24,300) and hospitality ($4,600) for section 12, are retained under policy-making organs. The Committee was further informed that a report would be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the outcome of the special session of the Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

IV.69 The Advisory Committee noted the organizational structure and post distribution for 2002-2003 provided in the proposed programme budget. The Committee requests that future presentations include information regarding the regional offices and the distribution of staff therein.

Section 14
Crime prevention and criminal justice

IV.70 The regular budget resources proposed for the biennium 2002-2003 amount to $5,314,600 before recosting, reflecting a resource growth of $493,300, or 10.2 per cent, over the revised appropriation for 2000-2001 of $4,821,300 (see table 14.2).

IV.71 Extrabudgetary resources from the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, projected at $5,882,300 for 2002-2003, would provide for substantive and technical cooperation activities to supplement those implemented by two interregional advisers provided for under section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation.

IV.72 A total of 31 posts (22 Professional and 9 General Service) are requested under the regular budget for 2002-2003, reflecting an additional 7 posts to be established, compared with 24 posts approved for 2000-2001 (19 Professional and 5 General Service). Extrabudgetary posts amount to a total of 13 for 2002-2003 (12 Professional and 1 General Service), compared with a total of 17 during 2000-2001 (15 Professional and 2 General Service) (see table 14.3).

IV.73 The increase of $588,500 shown under posts (table A.14.2) includes seven new posts (1 P-5, 1 P-4, 1 P-2 and 4 General Service (Other level)). Of this total, the three Professional posts and one of the General Service posts would carry out tasks related to the newly adopted United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols, including preparatory work related to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the provision of technical assistance to Member States for the ratification of the Convention and its protocols. Two of the General Service posts would provide administrative support for activities related to the criminal aspects of terrorism and corruption, and the fourth one would provide technical support related to information technology and the web site of the Centre (see para. A.14.2). The increase also covers the delayed impact of a P-4 post approved by the General Assembly during 2000-2001. **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the three new Professional posts proposed as well as two of the four General Service posts.**

Section 15
International drug control

IV.74 The regular budget resources proposed for 2002-2003 under section 15 amount to $14,367,000 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $648,800, or 4.7 per cent, over the 2000-2001 appropriation of $13,718,200 (see table 15.2).

IV.75. Extrabudgetary resources, as indicated in paragraph 15.14 and table 15.2 of the proposed programme budget, are projected at $198,254,600 for 2002-2003, compared with an estimated $187,590,700 for 2000-2001.

IV.76 The regular budget posts proposed for 2002-2003 total 74 (49 Professional and 25 General Service), compared with 71 posts approved for 2000-2001 (47 Professional and 24 General Service) (see table 15.3).

IV.77 The largest component of the increase in regular budget resources ($460,400) results from the proposed establishment of three new posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service) under subprogramme 2, International drug control monitoring and policy-making, in order to strengthen the Convention Evaluation Unit and the International Narcotics Control Board Secretariat in carrying out activities related to the implementation of mandates emanating from the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. It also takes into account the delayed impact of three posts approved during 2000-2001 (2 P-4 and 1 P-3) (see para. 15.13 and table A.15.2). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the Professional posts to be established under subprogramme 2. In view of the already existing 24 General Service posts, it is not convinced of the need for an additional post at that level.**

Part V
Regional cooperation for development

V.1 The Secretary-General's estimate for part V of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $353,337,900, and comprises a total of $84,474,100 for section 16A, Regional commission (Economic Commission for Africa), and section 16B, Regional Commissions New York Office; $56,029,100 for section 17, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific; $38,351,300 for section 18, Economic development in Europe; $81,115,800 for section 19, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean; $50,669,500 for section 20, Economic and social development in Western Asia; and $42,698,100 for section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation.

V.2 The Advisory Committee recalls its comments in paragraphs V.4 to V.6 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[3] on the presentation of the output description provided under "international cooperation and inter-agency coordination and liaison", on workload indicators and on transparency in the redeployment of posts between programmes and subprogrammes. **As these issues have not been addressed, the Committee reiterates its views and requests that the action taken be reported in the context of the next budget presentation.**

V.3 The high rates of vacancy in the regional commissions, particularly at the Professional level, have been of continuing concern to the Advisory Committee (see ibid., paras. V.8-V.10 and table V.1 below). **The Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts made by the commissions to lower vacancy rates.** The high vacancy

rate in the Professional category in the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) is discussed in paragraph V.12 below.

Table V.1
Average vacancy rates in the regional commissions in 2000 and 2001

	2000		*2001[a]*	
Regional commission	*Professional*	*General Service*	*Professional*	*General Service*
ECA	32.4	14.4	29.7	11.1
ESCAP	8.0	5.1	5.7	8.8
ECE	2.7	1.6	6.1	2.5
ECLAC	3.3	1.6	1.6	2.6
ESCWA	13.6	4.4	6.7	3.7

[a] As at 30 June 2001.

V.4 The Advisory Committee was informed that by July 2001 all of the regional commissions will have installed Release 3 of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS). The Committee recalls its recommendation in paragraph V.12 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that steps must be taken to ensure that IMIS, once installed, is adequately maintained in all the regional commissions, the P-4 and Local level posts that were established in the biennium 2000-2001 as temporary posts to support IMIS operations have been converted to established regular budget posts. Given the present levels of installation at the regional commissions, the Committee expects that in the coming biennium increases in productivity and attendant savings should result.

V.5 **With regard to public information activities, the Advisory Committee draws attention to its comments on section 26, Public information, of the proposed programme budget. Public information, advocacy and outreach are important mechanisms for promoting the goals of the regional commissions.** In the budget sections for the regional commissions, the public information programme and the related costs are included under executive direction and management. **However, the degree of clarity as to the programme of work and related costs varies from commission to commission. For the purposes of the next budget submission, the Committee requests that, for all the regional commissions, the programme of public information, together with the related costs and staffing, be clearly identified within the proposals for executive direction and management.**

V.6 **A number of the commissions have undertaken reviews of their publication programmes. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends that the regional commissions exchange information on best practices regarding the preparation, promotion and sales of publications. Such an exchange could potentially take place at the semi-annual meetings of the executive secretaries of the commissions. Furthermore, the Committee reiterates its opinion that resources released as a result of the discontinuation of publications should not in any way lead to a reduction of resources for the**

programme, but should instead be redirected to other priority areas in each commission; in addition, sales revenue should be made available to the unit concerned to enable it to further implement its programme of work (see chap. I above).

Section 16
Economic and social development in Africa

Section 16A
Regional commission

V.7 As shown in table 16A.2 of the proposed programme budget, the regular budget estimate for section 16A for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $80,710,500 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $1,305,000, or 1.6 per cent, over the appropriation for 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources for ECA for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $22,764,300 compared with the estimate for 2000-2001 of $10,520,000.

V.8 The proposed staffing table, as shown in table 16A.3, provides for 566 established regular budget posts and represents an increase of one P-4 and one Local level post. The Advisory Committee was informed that those two IMIS-related posts represented conversions from temporary to established regular budget posts, as the functions were considered to be of a continuing nature (see also para. V.4 above). Thus, no new posts are being requested. The Committee was informed that the increase shown under posts was due to the delayed impact of the establishment of the two IMIS-related posts in the biennium 2000-2001, as well as to the expected lowering of the vacancy rates. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, on the assumption that the vacancy rates for both Professional and General Service staff would be lowered to 10 per cent by 31 December 2001 (see para. V.12 below), staff costs would increase by approximately $2,215,400.

V.9 The Advisory Committee notes the proposed establishment of two D-1 posts to be funded from extrabudgetary resources, as indicated in tables A.16A.3, A.16A.6 and A.16A.9. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that when the resources were received the Secretariat would seek the concurrence of the Committee to establish the posts in accordance with section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 35/217 of 17 December 1980 (see chap. I above).

V.10 The Advisory Committee also notes the high ratio in ECA of staff in the General Service and other categories to staff in the Professional category and above (see table 16A.3). The Committee received no satisfactory explanation for this situation. In the opinion of the Committee, the steady introduction of new work methods using modern technology may well reduce this ratio. **The Committee requests that a review be undertaken and that, as appropriate, measures be introduced to reduce the ratio of General Service to Professional staff in ECA. The Committee also requests the Secretary-General to report, in the context of the next budget submission, on the steps taken.**

V.11 As indicated in paragraphs 16A.4 and 16A.5, the estimates reflect the reorganization of the activities of ECA and the concentration of resources in the priority areas of the programme of work in line with the decisions taken by the ECA Conference of Ministers in 1999, as well as the establishment of a new subprogramme 2, Promoting trade and mobilizing finance for development. In

connection with the latter, the Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraphs 16A.32, 16A.36, 16A.40, 16A.44, 16A.48, 16A.52, 16A.56 and 16A.72, that a total of 23 posts have been redeployed from other subprogrammes to the new subprogramme. **In future, the Committee requests, in line with its recommendation in paragraph V.2 above, that such changes and the reasons therefor be clearly explained in the overview portion of the budget section.**

V.12 Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the vacancy rates as at 30 June 2001 were 29.7 per cent for Professional staff and 11.1 per cent for General Service staff (see table V.1 above). The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee, however, that measures taken by ECA in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management had yielded good results, and it was expected that the vacancy rate for Professional staff would drop to 10 per cent by the end of 2001.

V.13 The Advisory Committee notes that the section contains a total of 13 expected accomplishments and 20 indicators of achievement. **The Committee commends the Economic Commission for Africa for its efforts towards concise drafting of these elements; however, further improvement should be made in the manner indicated by the Committee in chapter I above.**

V.14 With regard to ECA publications, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in line with the reforms initiated six years ago, efforts had been made to significantly reduce the number of publications to be issued during the biennium. The Committee was also informed that the Commission had intended to use consultants to bridge gaps in knowledge or skills within the Commission. The Committee enquired as to the total number of publications to be issued in the biennium 2002-2003, both recurrent and non-recurrent, and the role of the intergovernmental machinery in reviewing them. The Committee was informed that although the reduction in the number of publications had been substantial (from 229 recurrent and non-recurrent publications in the biennium 2000-2001 to 158 in 2002-2003), it had mostly involved smaller publications such as newsletters. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the review of publications had been undertaken by expert bodies of the Commission. **The Committee requests that, in future, the budget proposal contain an explanation of the results of any such review.**

V.15 The Advisory Committee also enquired as to whether an impact analysis of ECA publications had been carried out and whether targeted end-users had been surveyed, as well as to the extent of collaboration with other entities in the production of ECA publications. The Committee was informed that as yet no impact analysis had been undertaken, but that it was the intention of the Commission to undertake such an analysis during the course of the biennium 2002-2003. **The Committee recommends that the analysis focus on the role of ECA publications in promoting the overall objective of development in Africa. The Committee emphasizes that reductions in the number of publications should not lead to a reduction of the budget of the Commission, but rather the released resources should be redeployed to priority areas of the work programme of the Commission (see chap. I above).**

V.16 **Taking into account the foregoing statements, the Advisory Committee requests that the next budget submission indicate the extent to which the following have been accomplished: a clear identification of end-users, the systematic use of impact analysis and a standardized procedure for**

collaboration in the production of ECA publications. With regard to the latter, the current method appears to the Committee to be event-driven. **Collaboration should be a prerequisite to taking a decision to produce a report. Once a publication appears as an output in a budget document, all participants and their role in the production of the publication should be known. This is the essence of effective prior programme consultation.**

V.17 The Advisory Committee notes the remarkable increase shown under extrabudgetary resources in table A.16A.1 under bilateral sources, from $1,868,300 for the biennium 2000-2001 to $14,939,600 for 2002-2003. **The Committee welcomes this development and commends the Executive Secretary and the donor community for the achievement.** The Committee notes that the estimates indicate the use of bilateral contributions under each subprogramme, as well as a description of the activities to be funded. These include activities in such areas as advisory services, capacity-building, research, policy analysis, poverty reduction, governance, training and information technology.

V.18 Upon enquiry as to whether the bilateral extrabudgetary resources were tied to any particular activity, the Advisory Committee was informed that the modality for using bilateral contributions was the subject of discussion in a partnership forum. The Committee was also informed that some of the contribution was tied to specific areas of the authorized programme of work, while other donors had agreed to give grants to the Commission subject to reporting on the use of the contribution. **The Committee welcomes the increase in grants and encourages the expansion of this modality of bilateral contribution.**

V.19 As shown in table A.16A.1, extrabudgetary funding from UNDP was at a level of $821,000 for 1998-1999 and an estimated $1.1 million for 2000-2001. **The Advisory Committee notes with concern that the fairly low level of UNDP funding over the past few years has now been totally eliminated.** The Committee points out that of all the regional commissions, ECA serves the largest number of least developed countries, namely, 35. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that UNDP collaborated with ECA in such areas as the production of the report on the *State of African Governance*, but that the Commission received no actual funding from UNDP. **The Committee urges the Administrator to revisit the matter with a view to strengthening the capacity of ECA in those areas in which the Commission is involved at the country level.**

V.20 The Advisory Committee requested information on the progress made in implementing the information technology project referred to in paragraphs V.30 and V.31 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The information provided to the Committee was not satisfactory. The Committee requests that such information be included in the next budget estimates. The cost of the modernization project was to amount to $5.3 million over a three- to four-year period. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that out of the projected $5.3 million, resources totalling $1.5 million had been obtained through redeployment from savings arising mainly from the high staff vacancy rate in 1999 and 2000. The Committee was also informed that the balance, some $3.8 million, would likewise be funded through redeployment. The Committee points out that if the vacancy situation improves, as foreseen in paragraph V.12 above, such resources might not be available. **In the opinion of the Committee, the programme of modernization of the operations of the Commission is important, and the**

provision of resources therefor should not be dependent upon the possibility of absorption within ECA appropriations. Accordingly, the Committee requests that such additional expenditure as might be incurred should be reported in the context of the budget performance report of the financial period concerned.

V.21 The Advisory Committee recalls paragraph V.32 of its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 concerning the installation of a VSAT unit at ECA before the end of 1999. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that a number of difficulties had been encountered, including delays in the shipment and clearance of equipment through customs and the receipt of damaged parts. With regard to the damaged equipment, the Committee was informed that a claim for reimbursement was under negotiation with the insurance company concerned. **Videoconferencing facilities are thus still not available at Addis Ababa, and no time frame was given to the Committee as to when they might become available. The Committee considers this a matter of serious concern and requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly thereon as soon as possible.**

V.22 In the course of its discussions with the representatives of ECA, the Advisory Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the report of the Committee on building construction procedures (A/36/643), considered a request by the Secretary-General related to the identification of a need for construction of a new four-storey office building at the United Nations compound in Addis Ababa. The Committee concurred in the submission of a proposal to the General Assembly.

V.23 The Advisory Committee notes the proposed reclassification of the post of the Chief, Facilities Management Section, from the P-4 to the P-5 level, in connection with the construction project (see para. A.16A.49). **The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification**. The Committee was provided with detailed information on the arrangements to manage the proposed construction of additional office space at Addis Ababa, the number of personnel involved and their qualifications, as well as the role of Headquarters in the project. **That information should form part of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in connection with the proposed construction.**

V.24 Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that income from the rental of premises in Addis Ababa related to the use of the ECA Conference Centre in 2002-2003 is estimated at $280,000 and that the total cost to the Commission for maintaining and managing the Centre during the biennium was estimated at $2,927,000 before recosting. **The Committee recalls its recommendation in paragraph IS2.2 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that measures be introduced to ensure sustained financial capacity for ECA to manage income-generating meetings at its Conference Centre. In this connection, the Committee notes that, in line with its recommendation in paragraph V.33 of the same report, resources are requested in paragraph A.16A.52 for the promotion, advertising and marketing of the Conference Centre. The Committee requested details concerning this project, as well as information on the costs involved.** The Committee was informed that the projected cost amounted to $70,000, of which $30,000 was related to participation in specialized industry exhibitions, $30,000 to production of a new promotional brochure and $10,000 to familiarization visits for journalists and meetings with potential customers.

V.25 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.16A.14 the estimated requirement of $1,322,700 for the continuation of grants to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning ($942,400) and the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders ($380,300). **Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the total budgets for the two institutes for 2001 amounted to $1,279,700 and $968,868 respectively. The Committee further enquired about the audits carried out by local auditors on the institutes. The information provided to the Committee in response was not satisfactory. Therefore, the Committee recommends that in its next audit, the Board of Auditors pay special attention to the two institutes, including the adequacy of procedures for internal audit and oversight.**

V.26 As indicated in table A.16A.24, requirements for the five subregional development centres and the coordinating unit in Addis Ababa total $16,021,300 before recosting, with extrabudgetary resources estimated at $2 million. The estimates provide for 52 Professional and 36 Local level staff (see table A.16A.25). The Advisory Committee was informed that the Office of Internal Oversight Services had recently completed a report on the subregional development centres. The Committee was provided with a summary of the findings on three of the centres. The Committee notes from that information that the audit dealt mainly with compliance with rules and procedures and control of expenditure. **Accordingly, in the next audit of the subregional development centres, special attention should be paid to the effectiveness of programme delivery.**

V.27 During the discussions on the subregional development centres, representatives of the Secretary-General stressed that the centres had been established on the basis of the wishes of the Member States concerned and that they addressed specific development needs of the countries of the subregions. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that subprogramme 6, Promoting regional cooperation and integration, addressed matters that cut across the subregions.

V.28 **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the time has come for ECA and its intergovernmental machinery to take a policy decision concerning whether or not the best approach is for the Commission to work through existing subregional economic integration entities in the areas covered by the ECA subregional development centres. The Committee has in mind such regional entities as the Arab Maghreb Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development and others. This would not be an exercise in savings, but rather a streamlining of operations and a redirection of current resources in support of the economic activities of those organizations. The Committee requests that this matter be studied and the results reported in the context of the next report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation.**

V.29 The Advisory Committee notes the indication in paragraph 16A.71 (c) that procedures are to be established for systematic monitoring and evaluation of progress made in the implementation of work programmes, including their results and impact. **The Committee requests that information be included in the next budget submission concerning how the results of the evaluation have been taken into account in preparing the estimates.**

V.30 Upon enquiry concerning common services among the organizations at Addis Ababa, the Advisory Committee was informed that the organizations sharing the premises included UNDP, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Labour Organization, UNFPA, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and UNIDO, and that the total number of agency staff in the ECA compound was 553. In addition, security services are shared. **The Committee encourages greater efforts at sharing common services at Addis Ababa; this is a potential for savings that is not being tapped. The Committee requests that the matter be reviewed in the context of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.**

V.31 **The Advisory Committee is also of the opinion that, with the establishment of the Interpretation Service at Nairobi, steps should be taken towards greater collaboration between the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the Commission in the sharing of language services.**

V.32 The Advisory Committee was informed that the Commission intended to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of its training programme. **The Committee requests that, in future, information be provided under each subprogramme concerning the costs and the nature of the training to be carried out.**

Section 16B
Regional Commissions New York Office

V.33 As indicated in table 16B.1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the estimates for the Regional Commissions New York Office total $1,291,800 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $52,300, or 4.2 per cent. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 16B.4, 16B.5 and 16B.7 that the increase under posts ($36,100) results from the proposed reclassification of the post of Library Assistant from General Service (Other level) to the Principal level, the increase under other staff costs ($6,400) relates to overtime, and the increase under general operating expenses ($5,800) results from additional requirements related to centralized servicing of office automation equipment. Staffing of the Office provides for the continuation of three posts in the Professional category and above and three General Service posts. **The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification of the post of Library Assistant from General Service (Other level) to the Principal level.**

Section 17
Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

V.34 As shown in table 17.2 of the proposed programme budget, the regular budget estimate for section 17 amounts to $55,204,600 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $793,400, or 1.4 per cent, over the appropriation for 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources for 2002-2003 are estimated at $22,409,300.

V.35 The changes in the distribution of resources, as well as the reasons for the net increase in the estimates, are summarized in paragraph 17.12. The Advisory Committee notes that the increase is due mainly to the establishment of one P-4 and one Local level post to coordinate and manage the Economic and Social

Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) web site; additional requirements for consultants, ad hoc expert groups and external printing; the establishment of one P-4 and one Local level post, which were funded in the biennium 2000-2001 as temporary posts to provide support for IMIS operations; the reclassification of the post of Chief, Conference Services Unit, from the P-3 to the P-4 level; additional requirements for the acquisition of data-processing equipment; and the contribution of ESCAP to the Inter-Agency Security Plan arrangements for Thailand.

V.36 The Advisory Committee notes the proposal in paragraph 17.24 to establish a new P-4 and a new Local level post to develop policies for and undertake coordination and management of the ESCAP web site. **The Committee recommends approval of these posts.** The reclassification of the post of Chief of the Conference Services Unit from the P-3 to the P-4 level is proposed in paragraph 17.55. **The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification.**

V.37 With regard to IMIS, the Advisory Committee was informed that Release 3 had been installed, but that it had not been operational long enough to assess productivity gains. The Committee also enquired about use of IMDIS and progress in the development of an interface between it and the ESCAP Programme Monitoring System (PROMS), as mentioned in paragraph V.51 of the first report of the Committee on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The Committee was informed that PROMS had more functionalities than IMDIS and, for the moment, was better suited to the needs of ESCAP programme managers. However, further development of IMDIS would eventually lead to its replacing PROMS. At present, programme managers are using the two systems concurrently. The Committee was informed that information was entered every three months for PROMS and every six months for IMDIS, and that information was entered into IMDIS manually. **The Committee is of the view that further efforts should be undertaken to develop methods for making the process of entering information into IMDIS less laborious and more automatic as activities are implemented.**

V.38 The Advisory Committee requested details concerning the provision of $57,700 in the proposed programme budget for the contribution of ESCAP to the Inter-Agency Security Plan arrangements for Thailand (see paras. 17.12 (d) and A.17.51). The Committee was informed that the Security Plan was an inter-agency, countrywide common service, the costs of which were shared on a proportional basis according to the number of staff employed. The Committee was also informed that while the security of ESCAP headquarters was the responsibility of the ESCAP Security and Safety Unit, security for all other activities in Thailand, including field offices, UNHCR camps, emergencies outside the headquarters complex, security advisories, residential security and security assessments, fell under the Inter-Agency Security Plan.

V.39 With regard to presentation, the Advisory Committee notes that section 17 contains 24 expected accomplishments and 79 indicators of achievement. The Committee recognizes that this is a first attempt at the new format; however, in the next budget submission the number of indicators should be reduced. **The quality of drafting also requires improvement. Indicator (c) (i) in table 17.7 is a case in point. In the view of the Committee, the number of statements by countries in legislative and intergovernmental meetings cannot measure progress towards achieving increased capacity in any country, whether it be to apply information technology or to use environmentally sound technologies. Indicator (b) (i) in**

table 17.11 is another example. The number of recommendations adopted at intergovernmental meetings cannot serve as a yardstick to measure progress towards achieving strengthened capacity at the national level.

V.40 The representatives of the Commission agreed that the expected accomplishments and the indicators of achievement should be redrafted. They acknowledged a lack of expertise in the Commission and indicated that a Member State had agreed to provide voluntary training as a bilaterally funded activity. **The Advisory Committee welcomes this technical advice. It stresses, however, that training in results-based budgeting techniques should not be subject to the availability of voluntary contributions. This critical training is a core function to be carried out under the leadership of the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Management, and should be funded, in the first instance, from the funds approved for training in the regular budget. Secondly, the Committee discourages ad hoc training that could introduce concepts and approaches that might not be fully in keeping with the evolving United Nations results-based budgeting concepts and procedures as embodied in resolutions of the General Assembly (see, for example, resolutions 53/205 of 18 December 1998 and 55/231).**

V.41 The Advisory Committee notes that the mechanism for coordination, as explained in paragraph 17.8 of the proposed programme budget, includes playing a proactive role in the Regional Coordination Meeting and its 10 thematic working groups, which are given issue-oriented and time-bound tasks for the formulation and implementation of joint programmes and activities. **The Committee trusts that such proactive coordination would include not only programmes that are carried out jointly, but also those carried out by individual organizations in the region (such as, for example, publications; see para. V.16 above).**

V.42 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 17.23 that the United Nations Information Service has two roles in ESCAP: it serves as the information service for the Commission, but it has also been designated, on behalf of the Department of Public Information, as the United Nations Information Centre for Cambodia; Hong Kong, China; the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Singapore; Thailand; and Viet Nam. **The Committee reiterates its view, as stated in paragraph V.5 above, that the public information programme of the Commission, together with the related costs and staffing, should be clearly identified within the proposals for executive direction and management.**

V.43 The Advisory Committee was informed that a review of the ESCAP publications programme had been undertaken, and that a 25 per cent reduction — a decrease from 237 recurrent and non-recurrent publications to 178 — had been incorporated in the estimates for 2002-2003. The representatives of the Commission informed the Committee that the reduction had been based on such factors as readership surveys, the capacity of secretariat units to prepare the publications and the need to avoid duplication of material that could be found on the ESCAP web site. In some instances, the number of issues or the frequency of a recurrent publication was reduced. **The Committee welcomes these steps, but encourages the Commission to conduct more systematic impact analyses and to take their results into account, as well in planning its publications programme (see chap. I, above). The Committee also welcomes the intention of the Commission, as indicated in paragraph 17.10 of the proposed programme budget, to**

establish procedures for the systematic evaluation of the programme of work of the Commission, and trusts that the outcome will lead to better and more consistent impact analysis of publications. The Committee again stresses (see para. V.6 above) that reductions in the number of publications should not be equated with a reduction in the budget. Rather, they should lead to a reallocation of resources to priority areas. This principle is in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 53/205 (see chap. I above).

V.44 Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the total gross revenue of the ESCAP Conference Centre was estimated at $254,100 for the biennium 2002-2003. **The Committee reiterates its recommendation in paragraph IS2.2 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that measures should be introduced to ensure sustained financial capacity for ESCAP to manage income-generating meetings at its Conference Centre (see also para. V.24 above).**

Section 18
Economic development in Europe

V.45 As shown in table 18.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the regular budget estimate for section 18 amounts to $37,880,300 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $465,700, or 1.2 per cent, over the appropriation for 2000-2001. The extrabudgetary resources are estimated at $11,937,400, as compared with the estimate of $13,706,500 for 2000-2001.

V.46 The changes in the distribution of resources, as well as the reasons for the net increase in the estimates, are summarized in paragraph 18.12. The Secretary-General proposes the establishment of four new posts in section 18. In paragraph 18.22, the establishment of a new P-5 post under executive direction and management is proposed for a gender focal point officer to promote and support gender mainstreaming in the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). The establishment of a new P-4 post is proposed in paragraph 18.30 under subprogramme 2, Transport, to strengthen services for the reconfigured Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Finally, in paragraph 18.34, the establishment of two new P-2 posts is recommended under subprogramme 3, Statistics. **The Committee has no objection to the establishment of these new posts.**

V.47 The Advisory Committee was informed by the Executive Secretary of the Commission that the preparation of the estimates continued the rigorous examination by the secretariat and intergovernmental machinery that had characterized previous submissions. In particular, the work of the Group of Experts on the Programme of Work and the process of internal self-evaluation had led to the discontinuation of some activities and had facilitated the formulation of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement.

V.48 The Advisory Committee exchanged views with the Executive Secretary on matters of presentation. **The Committee notes that efforts have been made to draft the 26 expected accomplishments and 32 indicators of achievement concisely. The Committee welcomes this effort and trusts that progress will be made in refining these elements in the next budget submission. In this connection, the Advisory Committee requests the Commission, in close**

consultation with the Director of the Budget Division, to examine how the current presentation of section 18 could be modified in the light of the logical framework for results-based budgeting techniques. Such modification should result in a presentation that links outputs more closely to performance indicators and expected accomplishments in fulfilment of the objectives approved by the General Assembly in the context of the medium-term plan. Care should also be taken to ensure that the indicators of achievement are relevant and demonstrate clear measures of progress towards achieving the results embodied in the expected accomplishments, which are, in turn, designed to accomplish the stated objective.

V.49 The Advisory Committee was informed that the total number of publications to be issued by the Commission in the biennium 2002-2003 was 259 (123 recurrent and 136 non-recurrent). The Executive Secretary of the Commission cited many examples of the Commission providing input into publications of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNCTAD, UNEP and WHO, as well as UNDP country reports, in particular those concerning countries with economies in transition. **The Committee welcomes these arrangements and encourages the Commission to intensify its efforts to collaborate with other regional commissions concerning best practices regarding the preparation and promotion of publications (see also para. V.6 above). Such collaboration, to be effective, should take place at a very early stage of planning and programme formulation.**

V.50 **With regard to the dissemination of information and communication, the Advisory Committee requests the Commission to discuss, in the context of the semi-annual meetings of the executive secretaries of the commissions, the feasibility of initiating a project whereby regional United Nations information centres, UNDP regional offices and other United Nations system offices could be used as venues to set up videoconferencing facilities for communication between the commissions and Member States or between different United Nations entities.**

V.51 The Advisory Committee notes from table A.18.25 that estimated resources for travel of staff for 2002-2003 (before recosting) remain at the same level as the appropriation for 2000-2001. In this connection, the Committee recalls paragraph V.67 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, in which it noted that the estimate for 2000-2001 was maintained at the same level as the appropriation for 1998-1999. Furthermore, the Committee was informed during its hearings on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 that the level maintained had never been commensurate with the increase in membership of the Commission since the early 1990s. The Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General review the resources allocated for travel and make justified proposals for increases or redeployments as required.

Section 19
Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

V.52 As shown in table 19.2 of the proposed programme budget, the regular budget estimate for section 19 amounts to $76,206,500 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $622,400, or 0.8 per cent, over the appropriation for 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources for section 19 are estimated at $16,896,500, as compared

with the estimate of $21,898,300 for 2000-2001. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 19.16 (a), that the increase of $78,200 shown in table 19.2 under policy-making organs is due to the establishment by the Commission at its twenty-eighth session (resolution 580 (XXVIII)) of two new subsidiary bodies: the Statistical Conference of the Americas and its Steering Committee. The estimates include resources for headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), two subregional offices, in Mexico and Port of Spain, and five national offices, in Bogota, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Washington, D.C., and Brasilia, with administrative and support costs for the subregional and national offices, including posts, appearing under programme support.

V.53 The Advisory Committee notes that the budget proposal has been formulated in the context of the continuing reforms and restructuring of ECLAC, as described in the overview to section 19. Salient features of this restructuring include reorganization of the former subprogramme on environmental and land resource sustainability into two subprogrammes, one on environment and human settlements and the other on natural resources and infrastructure; strengthening of the ECLAC web site activities; and decentralization of the management of economic and social documentation and the consequent phasing-out of the Latin American Centre for Economic and Social Documentation. In addition, a number of redeployments have been proposed as the result of the restructuring. These are described in detail in paragraphs 19.38, 19.43, 19.48, 19.53, 19.58, 19.67, 19.83, 19.88 and 19.101.

V.54 The proposed staffing table provides for 493 regular budget posts for 2002-2003, 191 in the Professional category and above, 4 General Service and 298 Local level — an increase of 10 Professional posts and a decrease of 7 Local level posts and 1 Field Service post, for a net increase of 2 posts. The estimates include provision for 34 extrabudgetary posts, a decrease of 4 in comparison with the biennium 2000-2001.

V.55 Four new Professional posts are proposed as follows: one P-2 in subprogramme 1, Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation, to strengthen research functions and to prepare studies (para. 19.43); one P-3 under subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, to strengthen the substantive capacity of the ECLAC office in Brasilia (para. 19.53); one P-2 under subprogramme 9, Natural resources and infrastructure, to prepare analytical studies on the development of mining resources in Latin America and the Caribbean (para. 19.83); and one P-3 post under subprogramme 9 to assist in substantive research and administrative matters relating to the field of energy (ibid.). Four Local level posts are proposed for abolition, one in subprogramme 1, one in subprogramme 3 and two under programme support. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to these proposals.**

V.56 The Advisory Committee notes that in paragraph A.19.63, under programme support, one Field Service post is proposed for reclassification to the P-3 level in the Division of Administration. In addition, three Local level posts, one for a programme technician and the other two for computer systems officers, are proposed for reclassification to the P-2 level as a result of appeals to the initial reclassification of Local level posts in Santiago carried out by the Office of Human Resources in 1995, the delay in reclassification being due to the protracted (six-year) appeal process. In paragraph 19.48, under subprogramme 2, Productive, technological and entrepreneurial development, the reclassification of a Local level post to the P-3

level is proposed, also as a result of the appeal process. In addition, in paragraphs 19.53 and 19.83, the Secretary-General proposes the reclassification of three posts from the P-3 to the P-4 level, one under subprogramme 3 and the other two under subprogramme 9. **The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassifications.**

V.57 **The Advisory Committee notes that the estimates for section 19 include 39 expected accomplishments and 53 indicators of achievement. The number and relevance of these should be reviewed in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, and efforts should be made to draft them in a clearer, more concise manner. Redrafting should be undertaken with a view to ensuring that expected accomplishments are attainable by the Commission and that indicators can be used to measure progress in achieving objectives and expected accomplishments.**

V.58 The Advisory Committee notes from tables 19.1 and 19.2 of the proposed programme budget that the estimate for programme support amounts to $37,412,000 at 2002-2003 rates, or about 47 per cent of the total estimates. As indicated in paragraph V.52 above, this estimate includes the costs of subregional and national offices. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that IMIS had not been extended to the subregional or national offices. **The Committee requests the Secretariat to study the matter and to provide the necessary assistance with a view to extending IMIS, where appropriate and cost-effective, to the subregional and national offices of ECLAC.**

V.59 The Advisory Committee notes that travel costs, as described in the narratives of the subprogrammes, typically involve travel to attend meetings or for consultations and collaboration with Governments, academic institutions or the private sector, often in connection with the preparation of reports studies and documents. **In view of the growing use of electronic methods, such as Internet web sites, email and videoconferencing facilities to disseminate and gather information, the Committee trusts that, where feasible and practical, travel expenditure will be minimized.**

V.60 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.19.68 that the estimate under general operating expenses of $7,264,300 includes costs related to the relocation of the ECLAC subregional office in Port of Spain to new premises. The Committee was informed that the move to the new facility would involve a reduction in office space by approximately 18.5 per cent, but that, based on a careful study of the short- and long-term needs of the office, it had been determined that the new facility would be adequate.

V.61 The Advisory Committee notes the increasing emphasis placed by the Commission on expanding the use of new information technologies, in particular the strengthening of the official web site operations. In this connection, the Committee recalls its comment in paragraph V.81 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, in which it welcomed the increasing use of electronic means to transfer information to end-users and encouraged the Commission to expand the use of modern technology to collect data and disseminate information. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that there had again been a substantial increase in the number of hits and downloads from the ECLAC web site. It is clear to the Committee that the Internet is becoming a major instrument for the dissemination of information by the Commission. This should increase productivity

in the operations of the Commission, in particular with regard to the collection and exchange of data between the Commission and Member States and the dissemination of reports and published materials. **The Committee welcomes this development.**

V.62 The Advisory Committee was informed that IMDIS was fully integrated at ECLAC. **With regard to videoconferencing facilities, the Committee recommends that ECLAC explore the feasibility of utilizing United Nations information centres, UNDP regional offices and other United Nations system offices as venues for setting up videoconferencing facilities for communication between the Commission and Member States or between different United Nations entities (see also para. V.50 above).**

V.63 The Advisory Committee was informed that the Commission would issue a total of 54 recurrent and 230 non-recurrent publications in 2002-2003. The corresponding figures for 2000-2001 were 86 recurrent and 258 non-recurrent publications. The Committee notes that non-recurrent publications are the largest component of the Commission's publications programme. **The Committee encourages the Commission to maximize the use of its web site as a tool for disseminating its publications. The Committee commends the Commission for the efforts it is making to determine the end-users of its outputs. This practice should facilitate evaluation of the use of outputs and should be taken into account by the other regional commissions.**

V.64 **As it has done with the other regional commissions, the Advisory Committee recommends that ECLAC undertake an analysis of the impact of its publications in the course of the biennium 2002-2003. The analysis should focus on the role of ECLAC publications in promoting the overall objective of development in Latin America and the Caribbean (see also chap. I, above). The Committee again emphasizes that reductions in the number of publications should not lead to a reduction of the budget of the Commission, but rather to a redirection of the released resources to priority areas of the work programme of the Commission.**

V.65 The Advisory Committee notes the description of public information activities contained in paragraphs 19.37 (b) and A.19.11. **The Committee reiterates its recommendation that for the purposes of the next budget submission, the programme of public information, together with the related costs and staffing, be clearly identified within the proposals for executive direction and management (see para. V.5 above).** Upon request for clarification of the objectives of the projects to establish public information centres in the ECLAC national offices, the Committee was informed that the resources requested were envisaged to strengthen the ongoing collaboration between ECLAC and UNDP/United Nations information staff, as well as to increase public awareness of the activities of the Commission and to reach out to a wider audience.

Section 20
Economic and social development in Western Asia

V.66 As shown in table 20.2 of the proposed programme budget, the regular budget estimate for section 20 amounts to $49,082,200 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $500,800, or 1.0 per cent, over the appropriation for 2000-2001. The

extrabudgetary resources are estimated at $124,900, as compared with $3,731,000 for 2000-2001.

V.67 The changes in the distribution of resources, as well as the reasons for the net increase in the estimates, are summarized in paragraph 20.5. The Advisory Committee notes that the increase is due mainly to the establishment of one new P-4 post for the Chief of Protocol/Coordination under executive direction and management (para. 20.16); one new P-3 post under subprogramme 5, Development, coordination and harmonization of statistics, to address new issues in the field of social statistics (para. 20.37); the reclassification of a Local level post to the P-2/1 level in subprogramme 2, Promoting social change for sustainable development, to reflect additional functions assigned to the post (para. 20.25); and the delayed impact of the establishment in 2000-2001 of one P-4 and one Local level post to provide support to IMIS operations. **The Committee has no objection to the proposed new posts and reclassification.**

V.68 Concerning the presentation of the proposed programme budget, the Advisory Committee welcomes the effort made by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) to draft expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. The Committee notes that in section 20 there is a total of 20 expected accomplishments and 24 indicators of achievement. **Many of the comments on presentation made by the Committee with respect to the other regional commissions apply here as well. In particular, the Committee stresses the importance of setting objectives that are within the ability of the Commission to meet.** Table 20.11 shows an example of unrealistic objective-setting in terms of the resource capacity of the Commission. Similar comments apply to the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement listed in the table.

V.69 The Advisory Committee notes that estimated requirements under programme support of $24,460,200 before recosting (see table 20.17) would cover the cost of a number of contractual services, as indicated in paragraphs A.20.27 and A.20.30 and as explained to the Committee during its meetings with the representatives of the Secretary-General. The Committee was informed of three services that are contracted out, namely: (a) security coverage of the ESCWA building and parking areas in Beirut; (b) cleaning services; and (c) general services, including fax and telephone operators, messengers and inventory clerks. The Committee was also informed that security was a common service managed by ESCWA on behalf of the other United Nations organizations on the premises, with the United Nations share of the costs amounting to approximately 80 per cent.

V.70 With regard to the management of the contracts, the Advisory Committee was informed that the ESCWA secretariat was involved in setting the rates of pay for contractual staff and that this was often adjusted upward to lower the gap between the pay of United Nations local staff and that of contractual staff. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the pay of United Nations staff was often as much as 40 per cent higher than prevailing local rates. **The Committee sees no justification for artificially adjusting such payments. The Committee requests that the Secretary-General conduct a survey of practices in other United Nations offices and that he propose policy options in this regard in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**

V.71 The Advisory Committee was informed that, as foreseen in paragraph 20.8, the programme of work had been approved by the Commission in May 2001. The

Committee was also informed that the subsidiary bodies of the Commission would meet during the first half of 2002 so that the decisions that they took that affected the work programme would be taken into account in the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005. **The Committee welcomes this development.**

V.72 In paragraph A.20.28 of the proposed programme budget, reference is made to the external evaluation of ESCWA activities. The representatives of the Commission informed the Advisory Committee of the results of the previous evaluation, which had included expertise from the Office of Internal Oversight Services. **One of the findings of that evaluation was that the advisory services of the Commission funded under section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the programme budget were highly regarded by the member States of the Commission. The Committee commends the Commission for this activity and requests that in the next budget submission the secretariat of the Commission clearly spell out the effect that the results of the evaluation will have on the operation of the Commission and on the proposed estimates.**

V.73 The comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee with respect to the other regional commissions and in chapter I above concerning publications also apply to ESCWA. The Committee welcomes the practice of indicating the number of recurrent and non-recurrent publications for each subprogramme. A total of 61 recurrent and 65 non-recurrent publications are scheduled for production during the biennium 2002-2003. The corresponding figures for 2000-2001 are 40 recurrent and 73 non-recurrent publications.

V.74 The Advisory Committee was informed that a survey of member States of the region indicated that the publications would have a greater impact if they were available in Arabic. The representatives of ESCWA informed the Committee that the Commission did not have the capacity to translate all publications into Arabic and that, to the extent possible, an attempt would be made to translate executive summaries of the publications. **The Committee expresses concern at the fact that the Commission uses a large amount of resources to prepare publications that, through no fault of its own, may not be of much use to the targeted end-users, namely the Member States of the Commission and related civil society. The Committee requests that this anomaly be examined with a view to developing an appropriate remedy. In this connection, the Committee recalls paragraph 73 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, in which it noted that publications of a current, sectoral or technical nature were to be produced in the languages of the target audience.**

V.75 Another finding of the survey mentioned above, which the Advisory Committee believes could serve as a lesson for the other commissions, was that member States desired shorter, less bulky publications and increased publicity for them so their availability could be known. The Committee understands that the Commission is attempting to respond to these findings through the use of its web site and the Internet to publicize the issuance of publications and to provide executive summaries as appropriate.

Section 21
Regular programme of technical cooperation

V.76 As indicated in paragraph 21.2 of the proposed programme budget, the regular programme of technical cooperation complements technical assistance available to the developing countries from other sources of funds. Furthermore, as indicated in paragraph 21.5, since the scope and composition of the activities under the regular programme are based on the individual requests of Governments, the proposals at this stage indicate only major areas of activity and the secretariat units responsible for their implementation. The three main types of technical cooperation activities are short-term advisory services, field projects and training.

V.77 The proposed budget for the biennium 2002-2003 under section 21 is estimated at $41,254,800 before recosting, which is the same level as was approved for the biennium 2000-2001 (see table 21.1). The breakdown of the proposed budget requirements by sectoral advisory service ($19,278,900 at 2002-2003 rates) and by regional and subregional advisory service ($23,419,200 at 2002-2003 rates) is provided in tables 21.2 and 21.3.

V.78 **The Advisory Committee transmits the estimates under section 21 to the General Assembly for appropriate action.**

Part VI
Human rights and humanitarian affairs

VI.1 The estimates under part VI of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[1] total $128,407,600 and cover section 22, Human rights ($42,060,300); section 23, Protection of and assistance to refugees ($41,237,800); section 24, Palestine refugees ($24,790,500); and section 25, Humanitarian assistance ($20,319,000). The estimate for Part VI of $125,507,400 (before recosting) reflects a resource growth of $5,977,500, or 5.0 per cent.

Section 22
Human rights

VI.2 The Secretary-General's estimate of $41,105,800 (before recosting) for this budget section reflects resource growth of $2,038,100, or 5.2 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of $39,067,700 for the biennium 2000-2001 (see table 22.2).

VI.3 Estimates of extrabudgetary resources amount to $62,947,300 for the biennium 2002-2003 as compared with $43,319,600 for the biennium 2000-2001, an increase of 45.3 per cent. The Advisory Committee was informed of the success of the new consolidated appeals process of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; two of those appeals have been launched so far. The Committee recalls from paragraph VI.5 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999[5] its opinion on the need to streamline reporting to donors. The Committee was informed by the Deputy High Commissioner that the situation with respect to reporting to donors was evolving; there were regular meetings with donors and efforts were being made to standardize reporting although individual donors would still be at liberty to request reports. The Committee was also informed that the bulk of the extrabudgetary funds were tied to specific operations and utilized on the basis of donor wishes. **The Committee notes the growing increase**

of contributions from extrabudgetary sources. The Committee trusts that efforts will be made to ensure that the practice of tied funds does not affect the policies of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) or the Commission on Human Rights and its subsidiary bodies as impartial international instruments for the advancement of human rights.

VI.4 The Advisory Committee was informed that all trust funds under this budget section were charged programme support at a standard rate of 13 per cent. **The Committee requests that in the context of the next budget submission for this section a review be made of the efficient management by OHCHR and the United Nations Office at Geneva of projects funded from extrabudgetary sources as well as those implemented under section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation.**

VI.5 The Advisory Committee was informed of the establishment of a financial project information system that would be linked to IMIS and the project system for extrabudgetary resources. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the main objective of the project is to establish a concrete implementation plan for the core management systems of the Office with a view to creating better tools (procedures, standards, processes and systems) for its project management functions. Such tools would cover project formulation, budgeting (cost plans) and approval (by the Project Review Committee) and would establish a clear link to pledges and available income, implementation, control and monitoring and reporting.

VI.6 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 22.14 to 22.27 that there are 22 subcommissions, committees and other groups involved in the programme of human rights and that that number is expected to increase. Some of the bodies are expected either to be enlarged or to increase the duration of their sessions during the biennium 2002-2003. For example, the membership of the Committee on the Rights of the Child would increase from 10 to 18 as soon as an amendment to the Convention on the Rights of the Child comes into effect, while the Committee against Torture would extend its sessions by one week.

VI.7 The Advisory Committee recalls its comments in paragraph VI.5 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[3] that the time had come for the Commission on Human Rights to come up with a more pragmatic meeting programme for the various subcommissions, committees and other groups. **The Committee notes in this connection the fact that the Commission, by its decision 2000/109, reduced the number of its working groups from 11 to 7 (see table 22.15).**

VI.8 **However, it is the opinion of the Advisory Committee that issues raised by it with regard to the subcommissions, committees and other groups remain pertinent and should continue to be monitored. Of particular interest to the Committee is the complex mechanism reflected in the system of rapporteurs and the attendant publications workload. The Committee exchanged views with the High Commissioner on this subject.**

VI.9 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that there is an urgent need for the Commission and its subsidiary bodies to rationalize the establishment of rapporteurs in order to minimize the potential for duplication and to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the mechanism. In this connection, the**

Committee welcomes the information provided to it by the High Commissioner that recently there had been attempts by the rapporteurs to meet and coordinate their work. The Committee is also of the opinion that the meetings of persons chairing the human rights bodies (see para. 22.25) could also play a critical role in bringing to the attention of the human rights machinery areas of duplication, opportunities to increase productivity and suggestions for priority setting. Furthermore, the Committee is of the opinion that the intergovernmental machinery in human rights should identify the specific areas for strategic intervention where OHCHR has comparative advantages in terms of experienced staff and adequate funding, both regular budget and extrabudgetary. The Committee requests that its own reports and those of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and oversight bodies be brought to the attention of the relevant human rights intergovernmental machinery.

VI.10 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the indicators of achievement for expected accomplishments listed in this budget section do not facilitate a determination of the extent to which the stated expected accomplishments would be achieved, as they are not measurable or quantifiable. Moreover, this section does not contain significant workload indicators. The Committee recalls its view in paragraph VI.8 of its report for 2000-2001 that the inclusion of consolidated tables of appropriate workload indicators under each subprogramme would constitute a useful tool in assessing resource needs and its recommendation that such information, including the number of meetings, reports and publications, be provided in the next proposed programme budget. The Committee is concerned that this recommendation has not been implemented, and stresses the need and importance of rigorous examination of the publication programme of OHCHR by the relevant intergovernmental bodies.** The Committee addresses this issue in chapter I, paragraph 71, above.

VI.11 As indicated in table 22.3, the total number of regular budget posts proposed for the biennium 2002-2003 is 163, representing an increase of 15 compared with the biennium 2000-2001. In addition, 28 new extrabudgetary posts are proposed for the biennium 2002-2003. Moreover, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 22.10 that potential additional resources would be dealt with in the context of the consideration of the report on resource requirements for implementation of the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/507 and Add.1). In this connection, the High Commissioner informed the Committee that she was contemplating a request for 14 additional posts.

VI.12 The changes to the regular budget staffing requirements are summarized in paragraph 22.9 and include the following:

(a) The establishment of 15 new posts (1 P-4, 3 P-3, 3 P-2/1 and 8 General Service), including:

(i) One P-3 post for OHCHR in Geneva and one General Service post for the New York office;

(ii) One P-3 and three General Service posts for subprogramme 1, Right to development, research and analysis, particularly in the area of the right to development;

(iii) One P-2 and two General Service posts under subprogramme 2, Supporting human rights bodies and organs, to strengthen the support provided to treaty bodies in respect of State reporting and processing of communications under the complaints procedure;

(iv) Two P-2 posts under subprogramme 3, Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities, to strengthen the thematic teams, particularly with respect to the development of operational methodology or thematic mechanisms;

(v) One P-4, one P-3 and two General Service posts for the Administrative Section;

(b) The reclassification of two P-5 posts to the D-1 level, including a P-5 post of Deputy Director of the New York office and a P-5 post for the Chief of the Administrative Section of OHCHR.

VI.13 **The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.22.10 that the P-3 post is required in Geneva to ensure constant coordination of work among the Office of the High Commissioner, branches and field operations. The Committee is of the view that such coordination can be performed through the reassignment of functions among the existing staff of the Office, and accordingly recommends against the establishment of an additional P-3 post.** Concerning the new General Service post for the New York office, which would assist the Director, the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, rapporteurs, representatives and independent experts when they are in New York, the Committee was informed that those functions have been performed for the past five years by a staff member financed from general temporary assistance funds. **Taking into account its comments and observations in paragraphs VI.7 to VI.9. above, the Committee does not agree with the request for the new General Service post. The Committee trusts that the Secretariat will take the measures necessary to regularize situations where permanent functions are being carried out through general temporary assistance funds.**

VI.14 The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the other Professional posts requested (1 P-4, 2 P-3 and 3 P-2/1), one additional General Service post, described in paragraph A.22.16 (b), and one of the two new General Service posts requested under subprogramme 2. The Committee recommends against the remaining five requested General Service posts, taking into account the ratio of General Service to Professional posts in this section (52 to 96 during the biennium 2000-2001) and the impact of the Organization's investments for new technology.

VI.15 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.22.10 that the reclassification of the P-5 post of the Deputy Director of the New York office to the D-1 level is linked to the expanded role of that office. As indicated therein, the office has had to reorient its functions towards providing policy input into the work of the four executive committees and their task forces and is also responsible for increased coordination activities between OHCHR and Headquarters-based United Nations departments, funds and programmes. The Committee recalls that for the biennium 2000-2001, the Secretary-General proposed a new P-4 post and the redeployment of a P-5 post to the New York office in connection with the work of the executive committees. The Committee's observation on the proposal, contained in paragraph VI.12 of its report, was that the executive committee arrangement was

instituted by the Secretary-General to coordinate the implementation of mandates entrusted to him by Member States, and that the work of those committees should not therefore entail a request for additional resources. **The Committee reiterates its observation. Accordingly, the Committee does not recommend the requested reclassification.**

VI.16 With regard to the proposed reclassification to the D-1 level of a P-5 post of the Chief of the Administrative Section, **the Advisory Committee was not convinced of the rationale for reclassification provided in paragraph A.22.41. The Committee does not accept the argument that a reorganization of an office should by itself be considered as a justification for reclassification. Therefore, the Committee does not recommend the proposed reclassification.**

VI.17 **The Advisory Committee notes with concern that no explanation was provided for extrabudgetary staff changes. The Committee requests that detailed information on all staffing requirements, regardless of their source of funding, be included in future budget submissions.**

VI.18 The Advisory Committee notes from table A.22.11 that regular budget resource requirements under subprogramme 1 are proposed at $8,008,300 (before recosting), compared with $6,821,900 for the biennium 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources for the subprogramme are estimated at $4,946,600 for the biennium 2002-2003, compared with $941,500 for the biennium 2000-2001. **The Committee recalls its request in paragraph VI.13 of its previous report that the Secretary-General identify more clearly resources related to the right to development. The Committee notes with concern that its request has not been implemented; this is now even more important in view of the significant increase in both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources under this subprogramme. Although it was informed, upon enquiry, that such identification was rather difficult, the Committee believes that indicative figures should be provided.**

VI.19 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 22.45 that the regular budget resource requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 under subprogramme 3 reflect the non-inclusion of resources for the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, which is without prejudice to such needs as may be demonstrated in the context of the report on activities to establish the Centre, to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. In this connection, the Committee recalls that a non-recurrent provision of $1 million was appropriated by the Assembly for the Subregional Centre for the biennium 2000-2001. The Committee also points out that the Assembly, in its resolutions 53/78 A of 4 December 1998 and 54/55 A of 1 December 1999, requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa. The Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that the Subregional Centre had great potential to improve human rights in the region.

VI.20 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 22.44 (d) (iii) that OHCHR would provide support to 28 field offices during the biennium 2002-2003. The Committee was also informed that OHCHR was cooperating with 40 countries and 50 institutions and that the number of countries requesting assistance was growing.

VI.21 **With regard to the estimated non-post requirements of OHCHR, the Advisory Committee notes sharp increases for a number of provisions. For example, travel of staff increases by 20 per cent, general operating expenses by 32.1 per cent and supplies and materials and furniture and equipment by 44.1 per cent each (see table A.22.2). Under individual programmes, the increases are sometimes more significant without adequate justification. For example, under executive direction and management, the provision for travel of staff would increase from $349,000 in 2000-2001 to $590,300 (before recosting), or by 69.1 per cent (see table A.22.6). The Committee draws attention in this connection to the need to expand the use of other means and tools of communication, such as videoconferencing and email; it requests that the next submission under this budget section provide information on the role of information technology in managing the activities of OHCHR.**

VI.22 The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that an estimated provision of $6.5 million was requested in this section for perennial activities resulting from Economic and Social Council mandates. **In this connection, the Committee reiterates the position contained in its report on the relationship between the treatment of perennial activities in the programme budget and the use of the contingency fund (A/53/7/Add.9).**

Section 23
Protection of and assistance to refugees

VI.23 As indicated in paragraph 23.16, in accordance with article 20 of the statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), no expenditure other than administrative expenditures relating to the functioning of the Office is borne by the budget of the United Nations, and all other expenditures relating to the activities of UNHCR are funded by voluntary contributions. As shown in table 23.1, the proposed contribution from the regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is $40,838,900 (before recosting), reflecting an increase of $2,000,000, or 5.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation of $38,838,900 for the biennium 2000-2001.

VI.24 **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that there is room for considerable improvement in the application of results-based budgeting to this section. In the first place, the indicators of achievement for the expected accomplishments listed in tables 23.4 and 23.5 do not facilitate a determination of the extent to which the stated expected accomplishments would be achieved, as they are not measurable or quantifiable. Moreover, this budget section does not contain significant workload indicators. The Committee trusts that the next budget submission will reflect improvements along the lines of the results-based budgeting format.**

VI.25 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 23.7 that a review has been conducted to determine the best method of providing regular budget assistance to UNHCR. As a result, proposals are made to strengthen the regular budget component, while at the same time the bulk of resources would be provided as a lump-sum grant in place of established posts. Accordingly, the proposed staffing table of UNHCR for the biennium 2002-2003 reflects only two posts under the regular budget: the posts of the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner (see table 23.2). The Committee notes from paragraph 23.20 that as a

result of these arrangements, the UNHCR budgetary process would be simplified, the grant would be subject to adjustment for currency and inflation, and the arrangements would be subject to review after three bienniums. As indicated in paragraph A.23.1, the provision for the grant reflects the redeployment of funding for 87 Professional and 131 General Service posts in line with the new arrangements for the funding of UNHCR.

VI.26 As indicated in paragraph 23.19, the increase of $2 million is the maximum that could be requested, taking into account the budgetary constraints of the Organization; subsequent increases would be considered in the context of proposals for subsequent bienniums.

VI.27 As shown in table 23.1, extrabudgetary resources are projected at $1,758,806,200, which reflects a decrease of $88,215,000 compared with the 2000-2001 estimate of $1,847,021,200. The number of extrabudgetary posts would increase from 4,108 in 2000-2001 to 4,791 for the biennium 2002-2003 (see table 23.2). The Advisory Committee understands that part of the increase is attributable to the new arrangements. The Committee will be considering the annual programme budget of UNHCR for 2002 in the autumn of 2001.

Section 24
Palestine refugees

VI.28 The Advisory Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 3331 B (XXIX) of 17 December 1974, in which the Assembly decided that the expenses for salaries of international staff in the service of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) that would otherwise be a charge on voluntary contributions should, with effect from1 January 1975, be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations for the duration of the Agency's mandate.

VI.29 The Advisory Committee notes from tables 24.1 and 24.2 of the proposed programme budget that for 2002–2003 an amount of $24,063,600 (before recosting) is proposed under the regular budget and that the number of posts under the regular budget would increase from 98 (87 in the Professional category and above and 11 General Service) to 100, reflecting the proposed establishment of two P-3 posts. As indicated in paragraph 24.11, the new posts are required in view of the increased workload faced by UNRWA. **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed establishment of two P-3 posts.**

VI.30 Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $749,688,000, as compared with the estimates of $713,989,100 for the biennium 2000-2001 (see table 24.1). The number of extrabudgetary posts would remain at 14 for the biennium 2002-2003.

VI.31 The Advisory Committee was informed that the Agency had experienced programme delivery difficulties because of the situation in the area; the Committee will follow up on this matter in the context of its consideration of the UNRWA budget in the autumn of 2001.

VI.32 **The Advisory Committee finds that the results-based budgeting concept is reflected better in this budget section than in a number of others; the expected accomplishments are better drafted, and some indicators of achievement are measurable. For example, a reduction of the infant mortality rate from acute respiratory infections is projected to decrease from 16 per cent**

to 10 per cent (objective 2, table 24.3). At the same time the indicators of achievement under objectives 1, 3 and 4 should have been more specific. For example, the indicators of achievement for improving the quality of education provided to the Palestine refugee population should have indicated the projected pupil pass rates and drop-out rates in basic education.

VI.33 **The Advisory Committee requests that in the next budget submission, the most significant workload indicators be presented in tabular form for the past two or three bienniums.**

Section 25
Humanitarian assistance

VI.34 As shown in table 25.2 of the proposed programme budget, the estimate under this section amounts to $19,499,100 (before recosting), reflecting a resource growth of $1,051,200, or 5.6 per cent, as compared with the appropriations of $18,447,900 for the biennium 2000-2001.

VI.35 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that there is room for considerable improvement in the application of results-based budgeting to this budget section. In the first place, the indicators of expected accomplishments do not facilitate a determination of the extent to which they would be achieved, as they are not measurable and quantifiable. Moreover, this budget section does not contain significant workload indicators in a format that allows for easy analysis, as the indicators are scattered throughout. The Committee trusts that the next budget submission for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs will better reflect the results-based budgeting format. In this connection, the most significant workload indicators should be presented in tabular form for the past two or three bienniums.**

VI.36 The Advisory Committee was informed during its deliberations that in addition to 12 million refugees, there are 50 million internally displaced persons; there were 700 large-scale disasters in 2000, of which about 90 per cent took place in developing countries; when the Office was established in 1994, it had launched 17 consolidated appeals totalling $1.4 billion for 11 complex emergencies and 8 drought-affected countries; and in 2001, the Office launched 19 consolidated appeals in the amount of $2.8 billion for 24 complex emergencies and 8 drought-affected areas.

VI.37 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25.6 that the Office had conducted an internal management review that concluded that there was a need for: (a) the integration of response capabilities to natural disaster and complex emergencies; (b) the establishment of a dedicated capacity in the Office to strengthen administrative support to the field; (c) the creation of a surge capacity to quickly respond to emergencies; and (d) better staff development. The Committee was informed that the proposed estimates for the biennium 2002-2003 reflected the results of an internal management review, which aimed at streamlining and strengthening the capacity of the Office and clearly defining the division of responsibilities between the New York and Geneva offices.

VI.38 The Advisory Committee recalls its observations contained in paragraphs VI.33 to VI.36 of its report for 2000-2001 concerning the structure of the Office and the need for its further streamlining. **The Committee observes in this**

connection that the internal management review appears to have made the structure of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and its governance even less streamlined; for example, there are now seven organizational units in the Geneva office, compared with six in the biennium 2000-2001. Furthermore, the Committee questions the structure of the secretariat's governance: there is an Inter-Agency Standing Committee and an Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, both being served by one secretariat in New York. The Committee notes that one of the functions of the secretariat is to undertake effective advocacy on behalf of the Standing Committee and the Executive Committee. Yet there are two units for advocacy and external relations, one in New York and a liaison unit in Geneva. The secretariat on natural disaster reduction also has advocacy functions (see para. 25.26). The Committee notes the replies to its previous observations as contained in table 25.17.

VI.39 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25.13 that the Inter-Agency Standing Committee has a liaison unit in Geneva; furthermore, it has a Working Group that holds four annual meetings, one in New York and one in Rome. As indicated in paragraph 25.14, the Working Group itself has reference and technical sub-working groups that hold 20 meetings a year in various locations. The Executive Committee holds 12 meetings per year, mainly in New York. The Standing Committee holds weekly meetings year-round, in both New York and Geneva. As indicated in paragraph 25.18 (c) (i)-(iii), a total of approximately 80 reports, position papers and thematic briefing notes would be prepared for the Standing Committee and its Working Group and subgroups; in addition, 20 meetings are envisaged for the Humanitarian Liaison Working Group (of donors). **The Committee requests that further efforts be made to establish a leaner and more effective secretariat structure with an internal governance that is less cumbersome than that which is currently in place.**

VI.40 The Advisory Committee was informed of the intention to establish an extrabudgetary non-operational unit within the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to support its activities related to internally displaced persons and that would act as resource centre. The Committee sought additional information on the unit and was informed that it would be a small, non-operational office. It would be inter-agency in character, located in Geneva, headed by a Director at the D-2 level and staffed with up to seven Professionals. The Office expects most of the Professional positions to be filled through reimbursable loan agreements with humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and funded from extrabudgetary resources. This would ensure inter-agency commitment as well as a direct link between the unit and the operational agencies responsible for addressing the needs of the displaced. This arrangement would be implemented in a flexible manner subject to availability of funding.

VI.41 **The Advisory Committee observes that during its discussions with a number of representatives of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, concern was expressed about the effectiveness of the Standing Committee and its working methods. One of the criticisms was that the Standing Committee was too large and unwieldy; what was required was a smaller, more coherent committee. The Committee shares this view. Moreover, the Committee is of the opinion that a proliferation of meetings and discussions about coordination is symptomatic of a failure to identify clearly areas of responsibility and to assign**

them to the most appropriate entity; coordination meetings should not become a substitute for action, especially at the inter-agency level.

VI.42 The Advisory Committee notes from table 25.2 that extrabudgetary resources in the amount of $183,353,300 are projected for the biennium 2002-2003, as compared with $157,355,700 for 2000-2001. As indicated in paragraph 25.8, the estimates for extrabudgetary resources reflect the requirements for some of the new measures identified in the internal management review, such as the creation of a surge capacity and the strengthening of administrative support to the field. The Committee points out in this connection that several United Nations funds, programmes and agencies also have surge capacity. For example, the Committee was informed during its meetings with the World Food Programme in the summer of 2000 that the Programme had between 30 and 40 ships at sea at any time that could be diverted to any area of urgent need; 50 staff members were ready to be deployed within 48 hours, while from 500 to 1,000 people on the roster of the Programme were deployable within 72 hours. **On the basis of questions and answers from representatives of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Advisory Committee has concluded that the Office needs to have comprehensive knowledge of the surge and quick-response capacity currently available in the United Nations system. This knowledge, buttressed by prior agreements in the form of memoranda of understanding among all agencies and other partners, would obviate the need to establish multiple duplicative quick-response capacities. Such arrangements would maximize the capabilities of all partners in the United Nations system and, ultimately, would introduce efficiency in responding to emergencies and natural disasters.**

VI.43 On a related matter, the Advisory Committee notes a reference in paragraph 25.26 to the establishment of an effective early-warning system. The Committee enquired about the type and cost of the system; however, no clear and specific information was made available to it. **The Committee requests that in the context of the next budget submission, additional clarification be provided, including arrangements for collaboration and cooperation between the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and members of the United Nations system, funds and programmes, as well as assets outside the United Nations system.**

VI.44 With regard to support to the field, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25.8 that the number of field offices has expanded since 1997. The Committee was informed that the Office's field presence encompassed about 39 countries and regions (in addition to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Afghanistan, where the Office has five regional disaster response advisers, four integrated regional information network offices and 30 offices in countries and regions with complex emergencies. In 2000, the Office maintained a field presence in 36 countries and regions.

VI.45 The Advisory Committee notes that the Office is not operational; rather, its presence in the field is to ensure that humanitarian operations and assistance are coordinated. However, the Committee notes from paragraph 25.33 that additional capacity is envisaged through the development of rosters, the expansion of equipment reserves for rapid deployment to the field and increased cooperation with Governments and relief agencies providing personnel and equipment to the office during emergencies. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that in the case of

natural disasters, the Office delivers equipment and other forms of assistance at the request of Governments. **In this connection, the Committee trusts that coordination will continue to be a primary concern of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as required by its mandate.**

VI.46 The Advisory Committee recalls its previous observation, contained in paragraph VI.32 of its report for 2000-2001, on the secretariat of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, which then comprised 13 posts (7 Professional and 6 General Service) all funded from extrabudgetary resources. The Committee was of the view that before another secretariat structure was established, it should first be determined whether the related tasks could be undertaken by existing units of the Secretariat in New York and Geneva. The Committee notes that the secretariat of the Decade has been replaced by a larger unit: the secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, which comprises 21 posts (14 Professional and 7 General Service) funded from extrabudgetary resources. There is also an Inter-Agency Task Force for Natural Disaster reduction established as successor to the Decade (see para. 25.25).

VI.47 The Advisory Committee recalls that as from 2000, the operational aspects of natural disaster mitigation, prevention and preparedness were transferred to UNDP, together with related resources in the form of a grant of $2.3 million. The Committee notes from paragraph 25.28 that the Secretary-General proposes the continuation of the grant for the biennium 2002-2003 at the same level as for the biennium 2000-2001. **The Committee has no objection to the continuation of this grant.**

VI.48 As indicated in paragraph 25.7, the proposed staffing table of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reflects under the regular budget the following changes, compared with the current biennium:

(a) The establishment of two P-4 posts under subprogramme 2, Complex emergencies;

(b) The establishment of two posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) under subprogramme 4, Disaster relief;

(c) The reclassification of a D-2 post of the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator to the Assistant Secretary-General level;

(d) The reclassification of a P-5 post of the Executive Officer to the D-1 level.

VI.49 **With regard to the proposed additional two P-4 posts under subprogramme 2, the Advisory Committee notes from table A.25.12 that 24 new extrabudgetary posts (6 P-5, 15 P-4 and 3 P-2/1) would be established under this subprogramme during the biennium 2002-2003. The Committee is not convinced that the establishment of two new regular budget P-4 posts is justified, and accordingly does not recommend their establishment.**

VI.50 **With regard to the proposed additional posts (1 P-5 and 1 P-4) under subprogramme 4, Disaster relief, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.25.10 that a new P-4 post would be required in connection with coordination functions. Taking into account its comments and observations in paragraphs VI.37 to VI.41 above, the Committee does not recommend the establishment of this new P-4 post. The Committee has no objection to the**

proposed establishment of a new P-5 post for a Chief of the Environment Support Section.

VI.51 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25.7 that the request for reclassification of the post of Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator from the D-2 to the Assistant Secretary-General level reflects the expanded responsibility of the Office for improving the coordination of international action in providing humanitarian assistance as a result of disasters and complex emergencies. However, no convincing justification was provided as to why the coordination cannot be successfully continued at the D-2 level; accordingly, the Committee recommends against the reclassification. The Committee notes from paragraph A.25.17 that as a result of the internal management review, the post of Executive Officer has been vested with additional responsibility. It is the view of the Committee, however, that a review that is intended to bring about improved efficiency should not, as a matter of principle, result in grade creep; the Committee recommends against the reclassification.

VI.52 As shown in table 25.3, the proposed staffing structure funded from extrabudgetary resources would provide for 397 posts, compared with 368 for the current biennium, an increase of 29 posts. **The Advisory Committee notes with concern that no explanation was provided of the changes to the staffing composition funded from extrabudgetary sources. The Committee requests that detailed information on staffing requirements, regardless of the source of funding, be included in future budget submissions.** The Committee was provided with information on the distribution of extrabudgetary posts for 2002-2003 (see table VI.1).

Table VI.1
Distribution of proposed extrabudgetary posts in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for 2002-2003

Category	2000-2001 existing	Executive management	Subprogramme 1	2	3	4	5	Programme support	2002-2003 proposed
Professional and above									
USG	-								-
D-2	1								1
D-1	3								3
P-5	35	2	(1)	6	(1)	(1)	1		41
P-4/3	129			15	3		3	2	152
P-2/1	19			3					22
Subtotal	**187**	**2**	**(1)**	**24**	**2**	**(1)**	**4**	**2**	**219**
General Service									
Principal level	-								-
Other level	67	(1)	(1)		1		(2)		64
Subtotal	**67**	**(1)**	**(1)**	**-**	**1**	**-**	**(2)**	**-**	**64**
Other									
Local level	114	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114
Subtotal	**114**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**114**
Total	**368**	**1**	**(2)**	**24**	**3**	**(1)**	**2**	**2**	**397**

Part VII
Public information

Section 26
Public information

VII.1 The estimates under part VII of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[1] total $146,982,900 and relate to section 26, Public information. The estimates of $139,345,400 before recosting reflect a decrease of $3,189,100, or 2.2 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of $142,534,500 for the biennium 2000-2001 (see para. 26.6 and table 26.2 of the report). The extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $6,402,800 as compared with the estimates of $6,831,200 for 2001-2002.

VII.2 The Advisory Committee notes that the provision for the Department of Public Information does not include requirements for the modernization of the television and radio facilities, including the upgrading and switching of the existing analog system to digital. The capital items are included under part XI, Capital expenditures, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003 (para. 26.7). In addition, the provision requested for the Department for 2002-2003, unlike the appropriation for the current biennium, does not include any resources for the

information activities associated with special meetings and conferences to be scheduled for the biennium 2002-2003. The Committee notes that should the Department be required to carry out information activities specific to those meetings and conferences, the necessary provisions would be sought through statements of programme budget implications (para. 26.9; see also chap. I, para. 23, above).

VII.3 The Advisory Committee notes that, as indicated in paragraph 26.12, efforts have been made to structure the programme budget of the Department of Public Information, in response to the requirements of paragraph 25 of the General Assembly resolution 54/249, in which the Assembly called upon the Secretary-General to ensure that all sections of future proposed programme budgets are presented in the same standard format. **The Committee welcomes this improvement.**

VII.4 The proposed staffing table for the biennium 2002-2003 for the Department comprises 735 regular budget posts and 12 extrabudgetary posts, reflecting no changes in the number of posts (see table 26.3). The proposal includes the reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-5 level in the Office of the Spokesman for the Secretary-General to serve as the main spokesman when the Spokesman and the Deputy Spokesman are on mission and the reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post to the Principal level and of three Local level posts to the National officer level.

VII.5 **The reclassification of a P-4 post to the P-5 level is referred to in paragraph 26.35, however, no justification is provided. Accordingly, the Committee recommends against approval of this proposed reclassification. The Committee recommends approval of the reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post to the Principal level and of three Local level posts to the National officer level.**

VII.6 Upon request, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in addition to the provision included under section 26, regular budget resources estimated at $6,613,500 before recosting have been requested for public information activities under other sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, as shown in table VII.1. **The Committee notes the information provided in paragraphs 26.17 to 26.19 of the proposed programme budget and welcomes the efforts of the Department of Public Information to rationalize its work and to collaborate and coordinate with other departments and offices of the Secretariat in the delivery of information and communications services in order to optimize the use of resources and avoid duplication. The Committee encourages further efforts to strengthen this cooperation and collaboration in the various public information activities of the United Nations, as indicated below.**

VII.7 With respect to the role of the Department in the public information activities of peacekeeping operations, the Advisory Committee notes paragraphs 239 to 245 of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/977). The Committee will revert to this question in the context of its review of the report of the Secretary-General, taking into account the views and recommendations of the Special Committee.

Table VII.1
Resources requested for public information activities under other budget sections

Budget section		Posts		Cost (thousands of United States dollars)
		Professional and above	General Service	
10.	Africa: New Agenda for Development	4	3	1 773.5
11A.	Trade and development	3	1	667.0
12.	Environment	3	4	721.4
16.	Economic and social development in Africa	4	8	1 327.9
17.	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	3	4	725.9
18.	Economic development in Europe	1	1	353.0
19.	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	1	4	877.0
20.	Economic and social development in Western Asia	-	2	167.8
	Total	**19**	**27**	**6 613.5**

VII.8 With regard to the definition of public and programme information activities, the Advisory Committee notes that in practically all the substantive sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 many outputs are budgeted for general information as part of the programme of work, in addition to outputs for public information. As a result, in some instances the difference between outputs classified as public information and those undertaken as part of the programme of work has become blurred. **There is in the view of the Committee, therefore, a need for further clarification and definition of what constitute outputs for public information and for programme implementation in substantive departments and offices. The Committee recommends that the Department of Public Information, as the lead agency, initiate a review of these issues throughout the Secretariat and that it submit its conclusions to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session. To this end, the Committee also urges the Department to examine ways and means of responding to the needs of other departments and offices in a way that would obviate their engaging in information and communications activities that could best be provided by the Department.**

VII.9 The Advisory Committee recalls its comments on the subject of the United Nations web site in paragraphs VII.9 to VII.13 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[3]. The Committee was informed that in the biennium 2000-2001, the Department has undertaken all work related to the development and maintenance of the United Nations web site through the redeployment of staff within the Department. Upon request, the Committee was provided with an up-to-date tabulation of staff who have been redeployed for the development, maintenance and enhancement of the United Nations web site (see table VII.2). This comprises a total of 12 Professional and 6 General Service regular budget posts that have so far been redeployed to the Information Technology Section of the Department, or converted from general temporary assistance in the context of

the 2000-2001 budget. In addition, the Secretariat informed the Committee that the number of visitors to the United Nations web site had continued to increase, with the number of hits averaging 4.1 million per day and the number of pages viewed averaging 410,025 per day. However, the Committee notes that currently, there is no effective comprehensive ability to evaluate use of the United Nations web site. **The Committee requests that this question be addressed and that the action taken be reported in the context of the next budget submission of the Department.**

Table VII.2
Staff in the Department of Public Information redeployed to the Information Technology Section

Title	*Level*	*Redeployed from (or converted to posts in 2000-2001 budget)*
Chief of Section	P-5	News and Media Division
Chief, Web Site Languages Unit	P-4	News and Media Division
Chief, Special Projects Unit	P-4	Executive Office
Web Site Language Coordinator (Arabic)	P-3	New post converted from general temporary assistance in 2000-2001
Web Site Language Coordinator (Chinese)	P-3	New post converted from general temporary assistance in 2000-2001
Web Site Language Coordinator (English)	P-3	Office of the Under-Secretary-General
Web Site Language Coordinator (French)	P-3	News and Media Division
Web Site Language Coordinator (Russian)	P-3	New post converted from general temporary assistance in 2000-2001
Web Site Language Coordinator (Spanish)	P-3	Library and Publications Division
Web Site Language Coordinator (Civil Society)	P-3	News and Media Division
Web Site Systems Officer	P-3	Library and Publications Division
Associate Web Site Officer	P-2	Office of the Under-Secretary-General
General Service (6 posts)	-	Library and Publications Service (3 staff), Office of the Under-Secretary-General (3 staff)

VII.10 The Advisory Committee recalls its comments and observations in paragraph 91 of its report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, where it had noted that there was no coordinated policy within the Secretariat for setting standards on the development and hosting of web sites. In this connection, it had recommended that the Department of Public Information, together with the Information Technology Services Division, take the leading role in providing coordination and advice, taking due account of the best practice in the industry and of experience elsewhere in the United Nations system. The Committee notes the Department's response to its request included in table 26.26 of the proposed programme budget. **The Committee requests that, in the context of the next budget estimates, information be provided on further developments with regard to these issues.**

VII.11 With respect to the status of the search engine project, the Advisory Committee was informed that the search engine facility would be implemented by

the end of 2001. The Committee requested a current estimate for the project to continually develop, maintain and enrich United Nations web sites for the purpose of achieving equal treatment of the six official languages on those sites, the need for which was stressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 53/208 C of 18 December 1998. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as indicated in earlier reports of the Secretary-General, full parity among official languages would require significant expenditure ($559 million). **The Committee is of the view that a policy of posting all public documents and informational materials either in all six official languages or in none other than the original language should be reconsidered with a view to making it more pragmatic and realistic. Furthermore, the requirement that all public information material that has ever been posted on the Web since its inception, such as press releases and treaties, be translated into all six official languages should also be re-examined. In the Committee's view, a practical solution needs to be presented to the General Assembly through the Committee with regard to the treatment of the official languages other than English in a way that makes the projected cost pragmatic and the results of practical benefit to the users of the other languages.**

VII.12 The Advisory Committee recalls its comments in paragraphs 70 and 71 of its previous report and notes the reply from the Secretariat contained in table 26.26. It appears to the Committee that the Publications Board needs to become more effective. The Committee was informed that the Board met only once a year and that plans were under way to have the Board be comprised of individuals who would be able to attend meetings more often if required (see also chap. I, para. 69, above).

VII.13 The Working Committee and its Working Group on Electronic Publishing have established a policy for publishing in CD-ROM format and on the Internet. New guidelines for Internet publishing were issued recently (ST/AI/2001/5). A new interdepartmental working group has been created to consider Internet-related questions, which will strengthen the Board's role in coordinating the United Nations web site.

VII.14 From the presentation of the budget estimates for 2002-2003 and the additional information provided by the Department, the Advisory Committee still believes that there is little evidence that the Department's publication programme has been rigorously examined by the intergovernmental machinery. Moreover, the Committee is of the view that there is room for further coordination with other bodies of the United Nations system with a view to streamlining the Department's own publications programme, including the apparent practice of having the same reports and publications issued by different bodies of the United Nations system in different formats. **The Committee further requests that the Department start considering how it could improve upon the current methods of receiving feedback on and of evaluating the effects of its information services.**

VII.15 The Advisory Committee recalls its comments and observations on the United Nations information centres in paragraphs VII.24 to VII.27 of its previous report. The Committee notes from the information provided in table A.26.34 that estimates for the biennium 2002-2003 for the information centres would amount to $33.4 million before recosting, reflecting a decrease of $430,000 as compared with the appropriation of $33.8 million for 2000-2001. Before recosting, the estimate for 2002-2003 for general operating expenses would decrease by $330,000 and for

furniture and equipment by $100,000. The Committee notes from paragraph A.26.85 that the estimate for furniture and equipment includes a provision of $248,600 to replace and upgrade data-processing equipment. The Committee requested information on the status of technological innovation at the information centres, including the number of computers available for the public. The Committee was informed that currently all United Nations information centres have access to the Internet, most through local internet service providers, several through UNDP Internet facilities and a few through the Société internationale de télécommunications aéronatiques. Forty information centres maintain their own web sites, which are linked to the United Nations web site. Thirty of them post materials in both a local language and in one of the official languages of the United Nations. Approximately 20 have a LAN of their own, or share one with the UNDP field office. Information centre inventories include approximately 450 computers and 280 printers in addition to scanners, digital cameras, CD-ROM writers, copiers, televisions, video cassette recorders, fax machines and so on. The centres have the equipment necessary for in-house production and for the dissemination of United Nations information locally in a timely manner. Although only two centres, those in Brussels and Rome, have procured videoconferencing equipment so far, a growing number of centres are using videoconferencing in their outreach, including the centres in Mexico City, Port of Spain, Panama City, Nairobi, Vienna and London. Facilities are either rented or provided by other United Nations agencies in the field. A total of 138 computers are accessible to the public in United Nations information centres throughout the system, with as many as 16 in Bucharest, but only 1 or 2 at most other centres.

VII.16 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.26.82 that the provision for general operating expenses for the information centres for 2002-2003 includes $3,933,100 for the rental and maintenance of premises, including utilities where they are not provided by the host country. Upon request, the Committee was provided with an updated list of the information centres receiving free accommodation and other services (see also A/AC.198/2001/5). **The Committee welcomes the information that attempts are being made by the Secretariat to obtain appropriate accommodation free of charge from host Governments for United Nations information centres in developed countries.**

VII.17 The Advisory Committee notes the information provided in paragraphs 26.38 to 26.43 on the resource requirements and programme of work of the Library and Information Resources Division. The Committee recalls paragraph VII.7 of its previous report. The Committee had noted that, whereas the library at Headquarters is under the Department of Public Information, the library in Geneva is under conference services. The Committee understands that this organizational arrangement is under review. The Committee was informed that, in addition, a review of the management of the library using outside expertise is currently being planned. **The Committee requests that such review also include the management of the Organization's archives.**

VII.18 The Advisory Committee recalls that, in conformity with decisions of the General Assembly on the dissemination of information and publications, for example its resolution 53/208, the use of electronic means, where appropriate and applicable, should always be one of the first options considered. **In the opinion of the Committee, this should also be applied to the sales of publications and products.**

VII.19 The Advisory Committee understands that, as many publications for sale would also be posted on the United Nations web site, the question arises as to the formulation of the appropriate policy regarding free distribution, free access and the charging of fees for such publications. **In this connection, the Committee requests a review of the matter with a view to proposing policy options to the General Assembly. The Committee also requests a review of the cost-effectiveness of the level of fees now being charged for access to the optical disk system (ODS).**

VII.20 The Advisory Committee welcomes the information that the backlog in the publication of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* would be eliminated by the publication of the 2000 edition and that, after that, the target would be to publish the *Yearbook* 18 months after the year to which it relates. The Committee was further informed that plans were under way to put the first 50 *Yearbooks* on CD-ROM. **The Committee recommends that this be done after the appropriate users' survey has been carried out.**

VII.21 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26.8 that provisions for the continuation of the United Nations international radio broadcasting project are not included in the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, pending a review and a decision thereon by the General Assembly with regard to the results of the pilot project. Authorization for the pilot project will terminate in 2001, and its future depends on the Assembly's assessment of it, in accordance with paragraphs 42 and 43 of its resolution 55/136 B of 8 December 2000 (see the progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the pilot project on the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations, A/AC.198/2001/7, para. 33). The Committee also notes that the Secretary-General intends to submit a statement of programme budget implications if the Assembly decides that such broadcasting should be continued and will report on the total costs of the project. The Committee notes that the radio project is one of the central instruments in the overall departmental effort to take the United Nations message more effectively to the mass media of developing countries, very few of which can afford to assign correspondents to United Nations Headquarters (ibid., para. 25).

VII.22 As indicated in paragraph 26.24 (d), the programme of work of the Department for 2002-2003 includes training courses, seminars and workshops for groups of visiting journalists and radio and television broadcasters from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimates for 2002-2003 for the training programme for broadcasters and journalists for developing countries amounted to $314,600 and for the Palestinian media practitioners to $320,000.

Part VIII
Common support services

Section 27
Management and central support services

VIII.1 Part VIII of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[1] covers section 27, Management and central support services, estimated at $453,777,700, or 17.1 per cent of the budget. The estimate before recosting is $429,991,000, as indicated in table 27.1 of the proposed programme budget, and the estimated requirements represent a resource growth of $585,000, or 0.1 per cent. In

addition to the regular budget estimates, extrabudgetary resources for section 27 are estimated at $108,963,000. Table 27.1 provides a distribution of the regular budget estimates among subsections A to G and a breakdown of extrabudgetary resources by source of funding.

VIII.2 As indicated in table 27.3, the total number of posts under section 27 is 2,106, including 512 funded from extrabudgetary resources. The total number of established posts funded by the regular budget is 1,562, as compared with 1,514 in 2000-2001. This represents a net increase of 48 posts (34 in the Professional category and above, 8 in the General Service category and 6 in other categories). The proposed number of temporary regular budget posts is 32, compared with 35 for the biennium 2000-2001. This reflects a decrease of 1 Professional, 1 General Service and 1 Local level post. For extrabudgetary posts, there is a net decrease of 5 posts, from 517 to 512.

Section 27A
Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management

VIII.3 The Secretary-General's estimate of $11,827,000, before recosting, for section 27A of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 reflects resource growth of $446,800, or 3.9 per cent, as compared with an appropriation of $11,380,200 for the biennium 2000-2001. As shown in table 27A.2, estimates of extrabudgetary resources amount to $2,851,500 for the biennium 2002-2003 as compared with $2,735,400 for the biennium 2000-2001.

VIII.4 The total number of regular budget posts proposed for the biennium 2002-2003 is 59, representing an increase of two posts (1 D-2 and 1 P-4) compared with the biennium 2000-2001. The proposed staffing composition reflects also an upward reclassification of two posts (1 P-5 to D-1 and 1 P-4 to P-5). No changes are proposed with regard to extrabudgetary posts for the Office for the biennium 2002-2003 (see table 27A.3 and para. 27A.4).

VIII.5 The Secretary-General, in paragraph 27A.26, proposes the establishment of a D-2 post for an Ombudsman and a P-4 post for a legal officer to strengthen support for the Panel of Counsel in the areas of legal advice and representation of staff members, in line with the measures for strengthening the internal system of justice originally put forward by the Secretary-General in the context of the human resources management reform. **The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of those posts (1 D-2 and 1 P-4).**

VIII.6 The reclassification of a P-5 post to the D-1 level and a P-4 post to the P-5 level is proposed, as indicated in paragraph 27A.4, in connection with the strengthening of the operation of the Office in the areas of monitoring and analysis of the financial situation of the Organization and of the administrative support services. **The Advisory Committee finds no convincing justification for the reclassification of a P-5 post to the D-1 level in the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management. The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification of a P-4 post to the P-5 level to strengthen the administration of the financial resources of the Department of Management.**

VIII.7 The substantial increase under general operating expenses relates mainly to requirements for the LAN technical infrastructure and central servers and for telecommunications, for which resources have been further decentralized to

individual budget sections instead of centralized under the Office of Central Support Services, as in previous bienniums (see table A.27A.2 and para. A.27A.4). An increase of $27,900 under contractual services is proposed in connection with requirements for the maintenance of software for the investment management, cheque-writing and payment systems in the Treasury and to the external printing of cheque stock and other specialized forms (see table A.27A.10 and para. A.27A.15).

VIII.8 The programme of work for the administration of justice is addressed in paragraphs 27A.21 to 27A.26. The Advisory Committee requested but, as at 10 July 2001, had not been provided with, an update of workload statistics for the administration of justice.

VIII.9 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 27A.12 (c) (v) that one of the outputs to be delivered during the biennium 2002-2003 is the development and implementation of a management information reporting system. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that when fully implemented, the system would: (a) provide programme managers with online information on a daily basis about the critical indicators of their department's management performance; (b) automatically alert them to variances from planned timelines and other targets; (c) permit benchmarking against Organization-wide averages; and (d) provide operational linkage to management reform measures. With regard to output (viii) in paragraph 27A.12 (c) on the validation of sustainable productivity gains, the Committee's observation is contained in part XIII below.

Section 27B
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts

VIII.10 As shown in table 27B.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General's estimated requirements for the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts amount to $22,367,800 for the biennium 2002-2003, before recosting, reflecting an increase of $158,000, or 0.7 per cent, as compared with the appropriations for the biennium 2000-2001. The extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $23,365,600, as compared with $22,662,900 for 2000-2001.

VIII.11 The regular budget for the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts for the biennium 2002-2003 provides for 117 established and 4 temporary posts (see table 27B.3). The changes to the staffing of the Office include the proposed establishment of a new General Service (Principal level) post as well as the proposed reclassification of a P-5 post to the D-1 level for the Chief of the Common Services Unit of the Programme Planning and Budget Division and of a P-4 post to the P-5 level for Chief of the Payroll Section. No change is proposed with regard to extrabudgetary posts for the Office for 2002-2003.

VIII.12 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that section 27B is a good example of the efforts made in terms of drafting the proposed programme budget in the results-based budgeting format. The section is organized better than many other budget submissions. Indicators of achievement and expected accomplishments are better-drafted, measurable and within the control of programme managers. For example, financial statements would be available within three months after the end of the financial period, and obligations would be processed within 30 days of receipt. At the same time, some indicators of achievement should have been more specific. For example, the indicator of**

achievement for improved availability of budget documents should have indicated the estimated number of budgetary documents that would be submitted in conformity with financial regulation 3.5 and regulation 5.7 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8).

VIII.13 The Advisory Committee notes from table 27B.8 that one of the objectives of the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts for the coming biennium is an increased understanding of budgetary processes by departments and offices. In response to a query, the Committee was informed that the Office would continue to be involved in training programme managers in results-based budgeting. The Committee was also informed that the degree of involvement of programme managers in training varied from department to department (see also the Committee's observations under section 17 above). **In this connection, the Committee stresses the importance of participation of programme managers at the highest levels in such training. Moreover, the Committee is of the view that the accountability compact between the programme manager and the Secretary-General should use the expected accomplishments and performance indicators as elements for accountability.**

VIII.14 The Advisory Committee notes from table 27B.12 that, with regard to its recommendation in paragraph VIII.12 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2001-2002 that the Secretary-General review the mode of financing the posts of the Peacekeeping Financing Division, those posts would continue to be financed from the support account for peacekeeping operations pending the review of the comprehensive study to be undertaken in connection with the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.

VIII.15 The Advisory Committee notes that the continuation of four temporary posts for the IMIS Support Unit is proposed for the Office of the Controller. **The Committee points out that the need for the continuation of temporary regular budget posts should be fully justified in the proposed programme budget.** Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that demand for the services of the Unit was increasing, especially in the light of the expansion of IMIS to offices away from Headquarters; therefore there is a need to continue those posts in 2002-2003.

VIII.16 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.27B.8 that the reclassification of a P-4 post to the P-5 level for the Chief of the Payroll Section is proposed in the light of increased complexities associated with the implementation of IMIS Release 4 and its interaction with IMIS modules 1 to 3, and that an additional General Service (Principal level) post is required in the payroll processing area in view of the increasing number of transactions. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that although IMIS Release 4 (Payroll) had been successfully implemented at Headquarters, both payroll systems were running in parallel for the time being, and payroll actions for UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations Office for Project Services were still administered using the old payroll system. The Committee recognizes the continuing complexity of payroll functions and the need for the successful implementation of IMIS Release 4 at offices away from Headquarters. Table A.27B.11 provides information on significant workload indicators in financial accounting and reporting. The Committee notes that a slight increase in account transactions is projected for the biennium 2002-2003. **The**

Committee recommends the reclassification of a P-4 post to the P-5 level for the Chief of the Payroll Section. With regard to the new General Service post for the Payroll Section, the Committee is of the view that the implementation of IMIS Release 4 should not, in principle, lead to requests for additional staffing resources for payroll functions. Therefore, the Committee does not recommend the establishment of a new General Service post for the Payroll Section.

VIII.17 The reclassification of the P-5 post of the Chief of the Common Services Unit to the D-1 level is requested in the light of increased complexities associated with the expansion of common services arrangements and the need for an adequate level of representation of the Division in intergovernmental, inter-agency and interdepartmental meetings relating to common services issues (see paras. A.27B.14 and 27B.21). **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the requested reclassification of a P-5 post for the Chief of the Common Services Unit to the D-1 level.**

VIII.18 The Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General of a significant increase in workload related to the support of peacekeeping operations. For example, payroll actions performed at Headquarters in respect of all international personnel of peacekeeping operations increased by 64 per cent, and travel transactions increased by 24 per cent. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, any additional requirements related to the increase in support provided to United Nations peacekeeping operations would be submitted in the context of the second implementation report on the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (see A/55/502, para. 6, and A/55/977, para. 16). The Committee recalls that in paragraph VIII.8 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997,[7] it recommended the transfer of the funding of a D-2 post of the Director of the Peacekeeping Financing Division from the support account to the regular budget. The Committee intends to revert to the question of the source of funding of the D-2 post in the context of its review of the second implementation report referred to above.

VIII.19 As indicated in paragraph A.27B.16, a provision of $664,600, at the maintenance level, is proposed for the Programme Planning and Budget Division under contractual services for data-processing services to ensure the stabilization of the updated budget information system and enhancement of the interface between the budget information system and IMIS and the desktop application of benefits in budgetary analysis and formulation. The Advisory Committee notes from table A.27B.12 that expenditure under contractual services for programme planning and budgeting amounted to $160,600 during the biennium 1998-1999, and the related appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001 amounted to $664,600. The Committee sought clarification of the significant variation in resource requirements for contractual services during the bienniums 1998-1999 and 2000-2001 and was informed that the delays in the replacement of the budget information system, attributable mainly to complexities of the procurement process for the selection of the appropriate contractor, resulted in substantial underexpenditure under contractual services in 1998-1999; the implementation of the budget information system replacement project has continued during the biennium 2000-2001. In this connection, the Committee draws attention to its observations and recommendations on the information systems of the Secretariat in chapter I above.

Section 27C
Office of Human Resources Management

VIII.20 As shown in table 27C.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General's estimated requirements for the Office of Human Resources Management amount to $48,505,200 before recosting, reflecting a resource growth of $527,300, or 1.0 per cent, over the appropriation of $47,977,900 for the biennium 2000-2001. The increase is attributable mainly to the strengthening of support for the global staff training and development programmes and to the reorganization of support for the internal system of justice (see para. 27C.8). A substantial portion of the increase is also for general operating expenses to provide for, among other things, maintenance and support of the technical infrastructure necessary for the support of central management services, such as email and UNIX, and the new charge-back system for telephone services at Headquarters.

VIII.21 Extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $5,106,800, as compared with $4,984,300 for the biennium 2000-2001. Those resources would be utilized during the biennium 2002-2003 to maintain additional staff capacity to provide services related to peacekeeping operations, extrabudgetary activities, funds and programmes, as well as to meet the operational costs of those services (para. 27C.8).

VIII.22 As indicated in table 27C.3, the regular budget post requirement for the Office of Human Resources Management for the biennium 2002-2003 is 169 (165 established and 4 temporary) posts, as compared with 164 (160 established and 4 temporary) posts for the biennium 2000-2001, reflecting the proposed establishment of a new P-4 post, the conversion from general temporary assistance of 2 P-3 and 2 General Service (Other level) posts and the reclassification of one P-5 post to the D-1 level. The number of extrabudgetary posts for the biennium 2002-2003 would be 24, reflecting a decrease of one Professional-level post. **The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the changes in staffing for the Office should have been explained briefly in the overview of the section (see, for example, the overview of section 27B).**

VIII.23 The Advisory Committee recalls that in its report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[3] the Committee made a number of recommendations. Table 27C.12 contains a summary of follow-up action taken to implement those recommendations. The Committee recognizes that some progress has been made towards implementing its recommendations. At the same time, **the Committee is of the view that further efforts need to be taken to fully address its concerns. There is a need, in the view of the Committee, to improve significantly the presentation of indicators of achievement for all three subprogrammes to make them as measurable and attainable as possible. For example, a reduction in the amount of time required to process significant human resources actions, including recruitment, transfers and separations, can well be measured in terms of the number of days that are needed for their completion.** In this connection, the Committee points out that the recruitment processing time, on average, was reduced from 388 days in 1996 to 275 days in 1999 (see A/55/397, para. 35).

VIII.24 The Advisory Committee points out that the Office of Human Resources Management was subject to reviews, analyses, audits, studies and evaluations that

were reflected in a number of reports prepared by the Joint Inspection Unit, the Office of Internal Oversight Services, the Board of Auditors and others. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that more than 20 such reports had been issued since the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. **The Committee requests that information on the results of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the reports, as approved by the Assembly, be included in the annual report of the Secretary-General on human resources management. The Committee trusts that the quality and transparency of the Secretariat's replies to requests of oversight and legislative bodies, as well as its willingness to curb an excessive number of self-initiated reviews and working groups, will obviate the need for frequent studies and reviews in the future, thus improving the capacity of the Office to carry out an orderly programme of reform and renewal.**

VIII.25 As indicated in paragraph 27C.3, the General Assembly, by its resolution 53/221 of 7 April 1999, set out the principles for implementing the reform of human resources management in the Organization; emphasized the role, authority and responsibilities of the Office of Human Resources Management in carrying out the reform and in fully implementing the basic mandates of the Assembly on human resources management; and established guidelines for the implementation of reform in the areas of human resources planning, the delegation of authority to programme managers and their accountability for the recruitment and placement of staff, performance management and career development.

VIII.26 Paragraph 27C.6 contains information on areas in which the Office of Human Resources Management expects to achieve progress in furthering human resources management reform during the biennium 2002-2003. The Advisory Committee notes that the issue of the rejuvenation of the Secretariat is not listed among the areas to be addressed during the coming biennium. Statistics provided to the Committee, upon request, show that the average age of the staff is 45.9 years (46.8 years in the Professional and higher categories and 44.4 years in the General Service and related categories) and that the average age of staff at recruitment is 39.9 years (42.6 in the Professional and higher categories and 37 years in the General Service and related categories). **The Committee reaffirms the need for effective action towards rejuvenation of the Secretariat and recommends that the issue be included among the areas to be addressed by the Office during the biennium 2002-2003.**

VIII.27 **The Advisory Committee is also concerned that the list of areas in which the Office of Human Resources Management expects to achieve progress in furthering human resources management reform during the coming biennium does not include the delegation of authority to programme managers and their accountability for the recruitment and placement of staff, performance management and career development. In the light of information provided to it during the testimony by representatives of the Secretary-General, the Committee has concluded that there is currently no effective machinery available to the Office to monitor the implementation of the delegation of authority (see below). The Committee points out that it is essential to bear in mind that delegation of authority is not synonymous with abdication of responsibility. In this connection, the Committee reiterates its observation in paragraph VIII.42 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999[5] that**

"... for orderly and efficient functioning and for managers to be held accountable for actions under delegated authority, it is absolutely essential to ensure that what is being delegated is clearly spelled out in writing. Each programme manager must be informed in clear language free of vague and ambiguous terminology. It is also essential to ensure that capacity exists in terms of staff resources to carry out the delegated authority. Finally, the monitoring of implementation of delegated authority should be streamlined so as to avoid excessive reporting and other costly bureaucratic processes."

VIII.28 The Advisory Committee notes that human resources information systems are not yet available for monitoring purposes (see para. 27C.15). The Committee also recalls the recommendation of the Joint Inspection Unit that the Secretary-General "ensure that the central administrative units retain an ongoing monitoring capacity through which they may gauge progress and detect possible deficiencies in the exercise by managers of delegated authority. To this end, it is essential to develop adequate information technologies and systems as well as cooperation with pertinent oversight mechanisms" (A/55/857, recommendation 9). **It is the opinion of the Committee that unless the present weakness is urgently addressed and rectified and the Office of Human Resources Management acquires the capacity to monitor, support and train programme managers on this question, there is a potential for seriously compromising the implementation of personnel reforms that are under way. The Committee requests that immediate steps be taken to address this question and that information on the proposed course of action be provided to the General Assembly early in the first part of the fifty-sixth session in connection with the review and approval of the proposed programme budget.**

VIII.29 **The Advisory Committee once again reiterates its view that the weaknesses in personnel action processes and procedures identified in the previous reports of the Committee remain largely unresolved. They remain essentially long, cumbersome and overly bureaucratic. The Committee cautions also that in the process of implementing the reforms, including delegation of authority, outlined in the report of the Secretary-General in his report on human resources management reform (A/55/253 and Corr.1), which were approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001, every effort should be made to ensure streamlined processes and procedures. In this connection, the Committee points to the finding by the Office of Internal Oversight Services that even though overall recruitment processing time has been reduced, the departmental decision-making process has now risen to an average of 152 days, as compared with the previous average of 121 days (see A/55/397, table following para. 35).**

VIII.30 The Advisory Committee enquired about the tendency to specify unrealistic academic and experience requirements in vacancy announcements as identified in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (see ibid., paras. 41-43) and of the reluctance of programme managers to accept change. In this regard, the Committee was informed about a pilot project to fill vacancies in ECA taking into account the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that the results were very encouraging and that the applicants included candidates with very high academic qualifications. **The Committee welcomes this development and trusts**

that the Office of Human Resources Management will provide the necessary guidelines for programme managers. The Committee also welcomes the information that steps are under way to review factors of experience and education that are used in the grading and determination of seniority for applicants to fill posts.

VIII.31 As indicated in paragraph 27C.7, for the biennium 2002-2003, the overall structure of the Office of Human Resources Management will remain essentially the same, comprising the office of the Assistant Secretary-General and three divisions: the Operational Services Division, the Specialist Services Division and the Medical Services Division. The staffing structure of the Office for the biennium 2002-2003 reflects the redeployment of posts from the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General to the Specialist Services Division and the Operational Services Division. The redeployment, as indicated in paragraph A.27C.1, stemmed from the reorganization of those areas of activity in line with the reform process whereby the resources relating to review processes and administration of justice were consolidated in the substantive divisions.

VIII.32 As indicated in paragraph A.27C.16, the increase in resource requirements under subprogramme 2, Specialist services, is due mainly to: (a) the proposed redeployment of six posts relating to the Rules and Regulations Unit from the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General; (b) the proposed reclassification of a P-5 post for the Chief of a new Human Resources Policy Review and Legal Service to the D-1 level; (c) the establishment of four new posts (2 P-3 and 2 General Service (Other level)) through conversion from general temporary assistance for the support of the Secretariat-wide training and staff development programmes in the light of the continuing nature of those functions and with a view to strengthening that support; and (d) the proposed establishment of a new P-4 post for updating and maintaining the newly launched electronic personnel handbook covering human resources management policies, rules and related guidelines.

VIII.33 **The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed establishment of four new posts (2 P-3 and 2 General Service (Other level)) through conversion from general temporary assistance for the support of the Secretariat-wide training and staff development programmes. With regard to the proposed establishment of a P-4 post for updating and maintaining the newly launched electronic personnel handbook, the Committee is of the view that it is too early to tell whether a new post is required; for the time being, those functions should be met by reassigning responsibilities within the Office. Accordingly, the Committee does not recommend the establishment of this post. Moreover, the Committee finds no convincing justification for the proposed reclassification of a P-5 post of Chief of the Human Resources Policy Review and Legal Service to the D-1 level, and, accordingly, it does not recommend the reclassification.**

VIII.34 In paragraph 27C.4, a provision of $45,100 is requested under contractual services for the external printing of forms for the Office as a whole. The Advisory Committee recalls its previous recommendation in paragraph VIII.23 of its report for the biennium 2001-2002 that the forms be printed in-house if feasible; there is no indication in the present budget proposal that the recommendation was taken into account. **The Committee reiterates its recommendation.**

VIII.35 As indicated in paragraph A.27C.21, a provision of $16,460,900, at the maintenance level, is requested for Secretariat-wide training and staff development programmes, with the exception of language training at offices away from Headquarters and some specialized training, for which provision is made in the respective budget sections. The Advisory Committee points out that the provision of $16,460,900 does not include training requirements for United Nations peacekeeping operations. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that an amount of $2,626,200 was projected under extrabudgetary resources for training, including training for peacekeeping operations. **The Committee is of the view that there should be closer cooperation and integration of the training programmes of the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; the impact and results of the training programmes also need to be assessed.** Table A.27C.13 contains statistical data on the type of training activities and the number of participants for the past and current bienniums and projections for the biennium 2002-2003. The consolidated information on training requested by the Advisory Committee is shown in table VIII.1. **The Committee requests that consolidated information on training be included in future proposed programme budgets.**

Table VIII.1
Resources for staff training provided in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

Budget section		*Amount (Thousands of United States dollars)*
Language training		
16	Economic and social development in Africa	436.6
17	Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific	55.2
19	Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean	123.9
20	Economic and social development in Western Asia	102.0
27C	Office of Human Resources Management	2 778.1
27E	Administration, Geneva	2 342.1
27F	Administration, Vienna	351.7
27G	Administration, Nairobi	91.3
	Subtotal	**6 280.9**
Centrally managed provisions for training		
27C	Office of Human Resources Management	13 682.8
Others		
5	Peacekeeping operations (training at the United Nations Logistics Base for UNMOGIP staff)	31.7
20	Economic and social development in Western Asia (security training)	35.0
26	Public information (information technology training)	148.9
27E	Administration, Geneva (training supplies and materials)	11.1
27F	Administration, Vienna (security training and training supplies and materials)	25.0
27G	Administration, Nairobi (security training)	109.8
29	Jointly financed administrative activities (United Nations share of training for ICSC staff)	4.5
	Subtotal	**366.0**
	Total	**20 329.7**

Section 27D
Office of Central Support Services

VIII.36 As shown in table 27D.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General's estimated requirements for the Office of Central Support Services amount to $228,538,100 before recosting, reflecting a resource reduction of $1,279,600, or a 0.5 per cent decrease as compared with the appropriation of $229,817,700 for the biennium 2000-2001. Apart from the discontinuation of a number of one-time resource provisions made in the biennium 2000-2001, the decrease mainly reflects lower requirements for information technology and information management resulting from the introduction of a new

methodology for providing telecommunications services on a cost-reimbursable basis and from the new arrangements for support and maintenance of central systems previously handled by the International Computing Centre (see para. 27D.6). Extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $46,316,700, as compared with $41,459,200 for the biennium 2000-2001.

VIII.37 As indicated in table 27D.3, the total number of regular budget posts for the Office of Central Support Services for the biennium 2002-2003 is 648, as compared with 622 for the biennium 2000-2001, reflecting an increase of 26 posts, of which 21 are proposed for information technology services and 5 for security and safety. The changes to the regular budget staffing structure of the Office for the biennium 2002-2003 also reflect the proposed reclassification of one P-4 post to the P-5 level and two General Service (Other level) posts to the Principal level. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the staffing changes should have been explained briefly in the overview of this section (see, for example, the overview of sections 27A and 27B).** The number of extrabudgetary posts projected for the biennium 2002-2003 is 81, reflecting no change as compared with the biennium 2000-2001.

Security and safety

VIII.38 For the biennium 2002-2003, provision for security and safety for the protection of persons and property at United Nations Headquarters reflects resource growth of $470,500 as compared with the biennium 2000-2001. The bulk of the increase ($440,600) relates to the proposed establishment of five posts for security officers who will be assigned to vulnerable screening points, 24-hour, seven day-a-week uniformed patrols of the Headquarters complex perimeter and all annex buildings, coverage of the guided tour routes and more frequent fire and safety inspections (see para. A.27D.5). **The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of the five new posts for security officers.**

VIII.39 In paragraph VIII.39 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, the Advisory Committee made a number of recommendations with regard to the need for a unified security command concept and a comprehensive expert survey of security needs. In table 27D.18, information is provided on the Inter-Agency Security Networking Group, founded in March 2000, and the United Nations Security Master Plan, which grew out of the comprehensive expert survey of security needs.

VIII.40 **Despite the foregoing, the Advisory Committee points out the lack of a coherent translation of security needs into budgetary requirements; expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement need to be reformulated. In the opinion of the Committee, a reliable system for measuring progress in the area of security has yet to be developed. Moreover, the Committee was informed that a number of studies that have been carried out recently have concluded that security requirements are being underfunded and understaffed.** The Committee recalls, in this connection, that in part II, paragraph 99, of its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the General Assembly recognized the importance of the security system and guards in the United Nations and requested the Secretary-General to keep under review the level of resources allocated to that function.

VIII.41 **The Advisory Committee is also concerned about what appears to be a lack of cooperation among Headquarters, the main duty stations and the field offices in implementing security projects of mutual benefit**, for example, the

project on mutually recognizable (within the United Nations offices) identification cards. The Committee sought additional information on the status of the identification card project and was informed that the project was at the preliminary stage, whereby its scope and related definitions were being discussed. **The Committee recommends that security entrance points at Headquarters be provided with the means to retrieve electronic information on the identity of persons who are authorized to have access to United Nations Headquarters.**

VIII.42 In a related matter, the Advisory Committee is not convinced of why the United Nations Security Coordinator and related interorganizational security measures are not structurally linked with the United Nations security services, and recalls that this had been the case in the past. The Committee comments further on this matter in section 30 below.

VIII.43 There are two indicators of achievement used in subprogramme 1, Security and safety: a decrease in the number of unauthorized entries into the United Nations premises and a reduction in the number of incidents of emergency (see table 27D.6). The Advisory Committee sought clarification as to the benchmarks for measuring improvement in performance and was informed that the relevant statistics were currently being collected to document the number of unauthorized entries into the United Nations premises and the number of incidents of emergency; the statistics would be used as a benchmark for comparison from one biennium to another to measure any increases or decreases in the level of security and safety.

VIII.44 The Advisory Committee notes that, although it is at the maintenance level, the estimate under other staff costs includes a significant amount under general temporary assistance ($673,000) and overtime ($3,101,200) in connection with peak periods, heightened security situations and extended security work hours during sessions of the General Assembly (see para. A.27D.6). **As an alternative to this approach, the Committee requests that the Secretary-General review the possibility of improving and upgrading security and safety on the Headquarters premises through increased and well-targeted investment in new technology, to be funded from both this section and section 31 of the budget. In implementation of this recommendation, attention should be paid to past experience. Information on the implementation of this recommendation should be included in the next budget submission. The Committee also points out that excessive overtime may have a negative impact on job performance; as such, it may be more cost-effective to consider increasing the number of personnel available.**

VIII.45 **The Advisory Committee notes that the General Assembly has yet to take a final decision on the capital master plan (see Assembly resolution 55/238, section IV, and A/55/117 and Add.1). Preparation of the comprehensive design plan and detailed cost analysis for the capital master plan, as called for by the Assembly in section IV, paragraph 3, of its resolution 55/238, should take full account of the special security requirements of the Organization. With regard to the anti-explosive detection service capability, which is currently outsourced, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to assess the possibility and cost-effectiveness of establishing an internal capacity and to report thereon in the context of the programme budget for 2004-2005.**

Information technology services

VIII.46 In the area of information and communication technology services, efforts during the biennium will be in line with the objectives stated in the report of the Secretary-General on information technology in the Secretariat: a plan of action (A/55/780), which includes access to and sharing of information, information and communications technology field support, technical infrastructure, capacity-building and achievement of e-administration (para. 27D.5). The Advisory Committee's comments on the report of the Secretary-General are contained in chapter I above.

VIII.47 As shown in table A.27D.12, provisions for information technology requirements under subprogramme 2, Information technology services, amount to $65,653,300 before recosting, reflecting a reduction of $5,104,500, or 7.2 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of $70,757,800 for the biennium 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $24,558,300 for the biennium 2002-2003, as compared with $19,029,200 for the biennium 2000-2001.

VIII.48 The proposed regular budget provision of $65,653,300 would provide for 148 posts in the Information Technology Services Division and related non-post requirements. This reflects an increase of 21 posts (16 Professional and 5 General Service (Other level)), 17 of which are proposed through conversion from the funds previously allocated for reimbursement to the International Computing Centre (ICC) for the maintenance and support of IMIS-related technologies and LAN systems. The staffing proposals also include the reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post to the Principal level.

VIII.49 The related additional staff costs are more than offset by a reduction in non-post requirements, which is due mainly to the introduction of new arrangements for the reimbursement of telecommunication services provided by the Division and a reduction in the cost of services previously provided by ICC. The Advisory Committee enquired about the new reimbursable arrangements in telecommunication services and was informed that during the biennium 2000-2001 a cost-recovery system was established aimed at providing a transparent method for charging users and for budgeting, accounting and reporting on telecommunication expenses. According to the Secretariat, this follows a review of telecommunication service at Headquarters by the Audit and Management Consulting Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The system is being phased in, with an initial focus on the use of telephone services and eventually covering electronic communications (Internet, email and data and file transmission).

VIII.50 As indicated in paragraph 27D.17, following an evaluation of the efficiency of services provided by ICC, it was decided that the Information Technology Services Division would assume responsibility for some of those services as the most cost-effective arrangement. The Advisory Committee sought additional information on the findings and conclusions of that evaluation and was informed that, following the successful migration of mainframe operations to ICC, the Division decided in 1997 to enter into an agreement with ICC for the provision of technical support services at Headquarters. Those services, which included the management of enterprise software applications and common infrastructure components, constitute core permanent activities of the Division. The Committee was further informed that although the arrangement worked reasonably well, in certain areas, it did not completely fulfil the needs of the United Nations. Functions (some of which were of a critical operational nature) remained uncovered for

extensive periods of time, leading to deficient service delivery. In addition, the United Nations was charged an overhead fee of 7 per cent for the staff and non-staff expenditures of ICC. Under those circumstances, it was determined that transferring responsibility for those activities to the Division would be the most cost-effective arrangement for the Organization.

VIII.51 According to the Secretariat, the delivery of central information technology services on a reimbursable basis will result in a total net reduction of requirements under section 27D in the amount of $5,104,500 (see para. 27D.17). Upon enquiry, the Secretariat clarified that that amount reflected the decentralization of the funding of the telecommunications operation to other budget sections through reimbursement by users and an increase in the extrabudgetary component of such funding through a recovery process. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the new arrangement.**

VIII.52 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Secretariat should actively pursue creative approaches to advancing technological progress within the Organization; it could, for example, make better use of its increasing cooperation with industry leaders in the private sector, in accordance with such guidelines as the General Assembly might establish.**

VIII.53 The Advisory Committee notes from table 27D.18 that attempts were made to address its previous recommendations on information technology services. **The Committee welcomes the fact that, in response to its previous recommendation, IMIS and the information technology services now operate as one organizational unit — the Information Technology Services Division. At the same time, the Committee points out that information was not provided on its previous recommendation, contained in paragraph VIII.47 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, regarding the extent to which IMIS is used by programme managers in the management of the activities under their purview.** The Committee was informed during the hearing that a review of IMIS use by programme managers had not been conducted. **The Committee requests that such a review be carried out as soon as possible and that its outcome be provided to the General Assembly before it begins its deliberations on the present budget section.**

VIII.54 The Advisory Committee recalls its previous observation about the low number (some 2,000) of IMIS users at offices away from Headquarters and regrets that little has been achieved with respect to remote access to the system, as there were only 2,325 users at offices away from Headquarters as at 31 December 2000 (see table A.27D.15 (b)). The Committee also recalls that it had indicated that, after IMIS had been installed at offices away from Headquarters, priority should be given to the development of remote access as well as to the needs of peacekeeping operations and the tribunals (A/53/7/Add.7, para. 5).

VIII.55 The Advisory Committee notes from table 27D.18 that, in response to its recommendation, a user satisfaction survey of the help desk was conducted in 1999 and that a new one will be conducted before the renewal of the contract or the issuance of a request for proposal for a new contract. The Committee sought updated information on contractual services in the area of technology, including help desk and client satisfaction monitoring. In response, the Secretariat provided rough and unanalysed data, which itself needed further clarification. **The Committee trusts that in future information that is provided at the Committee's request**

will be meaningful, precise, up-to-date and well-thought-over by the Secretariat.

VIII.56 As indicated in paragraph A.27D.11, the proposed staffing structure for the Information Technology Services Division for the biennium 2002-2003 provides for the following changes:

(a) The establishment of a P-4 post to strengthen the capacity of the Division in information and communication technology standards;

(b) The establishment of three posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Other level)) to enhance the Division's capacity to deal with security in the information technology area;

(c) The establishment of 17 posts (3 P-5, 3 P-4, 7 P-3 and 4 General Service (Other level)) through conversion from the funds previously allocated for reimbursement to ICC for the maintenance and support of IMIS-related technologies and LAN systems and for technical management of IMIS operations from offices away from Headquarters;

(d) The reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post to the Principal level to reflect appropriately supervisory functions in the Broadcast and Conference Support Section of the Division.

The Advisory Committee recommends the establishment of these posts. The Committee also has no objection to the requested reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post to the Principal level.

VIII.57 As shown in table A.27D.12, a provision of $17,706,800 is made under general operating expenses, of which the amount of $9,839,200 represents the regular budget component of telecommunication operational costs financed under the special account for telecommunication operations (para. A.27D.16 (b)). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon request, that the account had been established by the Controller to account for income and expenditures related to the system. For each biennium a separate budget for telecommunication operations will be established. The budget for 2002-2003 consists of estimated expenditures of $23,466,500, which is offset by income in the same amount. Expenditures comprise the full cost of the operation: staff, contractual services, operational costs and acquisition and replacement of equipment. Income will be derived from a flat fee of $10 per communication line per month and fees for voice services (telephone calls and videoconferences) and facsimile services, based on actual use, applying rates charged by telephone carriers; there will also be a centrally provided contribution from the regular budget. A full transition to separate budgeting, accounting and reporting for communication costs will be completed in the biennium 2004-2005. According to the Secretariat, this new approach is designed to provide for a self-sustained operation that will reflect a more equitable distribution of telecommunication costs based on reliable measures of utilization and the lowest commercial rates; it is also expected that users will have a greater input into the scope and quality of services.

VIII.58 In connection with the estimate of $1,909,500 for the maintenance of office automation and other equipment (see para. A.27D.16 (c)), the Advisory Committee enquired into standard costing parameters used in the proposed budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The Committee was informed that the following cost

parameters had been applied in costing requirements for the maintenance of office automation equipment (including a provision for the maintenance of local area network support) at Headquarters:

(a) Service level A, $1,200 (LAN, $400; help desk services, $400; software licences, $150; usage of LAN server, $150; central management software (CMS) support fee, $100);

(b) Service level B, $800 (help desk services, $400; software licences $150; usage of LAN server, $150; CMS support fee, $100);

(c) Service level C, $550 (help desk services, $150; software licences, $150; usage of LAN server, $150; CMS support fee, $100).

The Committee expresses concern at the high cost of maintenance, and requests that a review be conducted of the way in which decisions are taken with regard to what level of maintenance of office automation equipment is to be provided to Secretariat staff.

VIII.59 The Advisory Committee was further informed that the following unit rates had been applied for the costing of replacement and new office automation equipment:

(a) $1,550 for a personal computer of standard configuration (at present, a Pentium III running at 733 megahertz, 256 megabytes of RAM, and 8 megabytes of video RAM and a 10-gigabyte disk) and a 17-inch monitor;

(b) $450 for a desktop printer of standard configuration (Monochrome laser printer, 8 pages per minute, 4 megabytes of RAM);

(c) $3,550 for a LAN printer of standard configuration (Monochrome laser printer, 32 pages per minute, 16 megabytes of RAM).

Procurement

VIII.60 As indicated in paragraphs 27D.5 and 27D.22, in the area of procurement, emphasis will continue to be placed on the effective implementation of procurement reform mandated by the relevant General Assembly resolutions; furthermore, efforts will be undertaken to encourage manufacturers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition to register with the Procurement Division as potential suppliers for United Nations operations.

VIII.61 As indicated in table A.27D.16, the regular budget resources proposed for procurement for the biennium 2002-2003 amount to $5,512,800 before recosting, reflecting a slight decrease of $21,900, or 0.3 per cent, compared with the appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001. Exrabudgetary resources, projected at $6,375,800 for the biennium, would provide mainly for services in support of peacekeeping operations.

VIII.62 The proposed staffing table for the biennium 2002-2003 provides for 37 regular budget posts and 34 extrabudgetary posts, and reflects the internal redeployment of a P-4 post from the Procurement Division to the Security and Safety Service in exchange for a P-3 post (see table A.27D.17).

VIII.63 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the indicators of achievement listed in table 27D.10 do not facilitate a determination of the**

extent to which the stated expected accomplishments would be achieved. The Committee recommends that the next budget submission reflect improvement in this area.

Travel and transportation

VIII.64 In the area of travel and transportation, efforts during the biennium 2002-2003 will be placed on the maintenance of efficient and cost-effective travel and transportation services, in particular through close cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system, as indicated in paragraph 27D.5.

VIII.65 The regular budget requirements for travel and transportation for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $8,280,500 before recosting, a decrease of $179,800, or 2.1 per cent, compared with the appropriation for 2000-2001, as shown in table A.27D.19. The decrease is attributed to lower operational requirements and lower requirements for the replacement of vehicles. Extrabudgetary resources are estimated at $1,112,400, compared with $1,064,400 for the current biennium.

VIII.66 No changes are proposed to the staffing table for the biennium 2002-2003, which provides for the continuation of 46 regular budget and 9 extrabudgetary posts (see table A.27D.20).

VIII.67 The Advisory Committee notes from table 27D.18 that in response to its previous recommendation, the United Nations has significant discount agreements in place with 31 preferred airlines covering the Atlantic and Pacific routes as well as Latin American and African destinations; overall, preferred airlines cover approximately 90 per cent of all United Nations routes. The Committee was informed that savings of some $4 million were estimated during the biennium 2000-2001 as a result of the discount agreements with major and regional airlines.

VIII.68 The Advisory Committee was also informed, upon enquiry, that, by contractual agreement, the contracted travel agency is required to issue tickets for official travel at the lowest applicable air fare in accordance with United Nations travel policy. If the lowest applicable airfare is not used, the contractor is obliged to reimburse the United Nations for the fare difference. According to the Secretariat, three staff of the Travel and Transportation Service monitor the contractor's performance.

VIII.69 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the indicators of achievement listed in table 27D.12 do not facilitate a determination of the extent to which the stated expected accomplishments would be achieved; the indicator "degree of client satisfaction" is rather vague, and it is not clear as to the mechanism for assessing the work of the Travel and Transportation Service. The Committee recommends that the next budget submission reflect measurable and clear indicators of achievement.**

Facilities management

VIII.70 In the area of facilities management, emphasis will continue to be placed during the biennium 2002-2003 on restoring facilities in order to prevent their deterioration and on correcting the health, safety and code compliance deficiencies in the structural, electrical, mechanical and support systems (see para. 27D.5).

VIII.71 As indicated in table A.27D.22, estimated requirements for facilities management amount to $114,114,600, before recosting, for the biennium 2002-2003, reflecting an increase of $4,776,200, or 4.3 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of $109,338,400 for the biennium 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources are projected at $12,823,700 for the biennium 2002-2003, as compared with $13,767,500 for 2000-2001. The estimates cover the requirements for maintenance of United Nations facilities at Headquarters only. The requirements for alteration, improvement and major maintenance of United Nations facilities at Headquarters for which the Facilities Management Division is also responsible are budgeted separately under section 31 and include: (a) $8,008,200, before recosting, for major maintenance and (b) $14,487,800, before recosting, for alterations and improvement (see table 31.4).

VIII.72 Proposed changes in post composition include: (a) the reclassification of the P-4 post of Chief of the Support Services Section to the P-5 level; (b) the establishment of a new P-2/1 post; and (c) the abolition of one General Service (Other level) post (see para. A.27D.36).

VIII.73 As indicated in paragraph A.27D.36 the proposed reclassification of the post of Chief of the Support Services Section is due to the increased responsibilities of the Section in the central coordination of special events and major meetings, including providing offices away from Headquarters with advice in connection with the preparation of facilities to accommodate special events and major meetings held locally, and in the management of the enlarged mail and pouch operations. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the reclassification.**

VIII.74 The establishment of a P-2/1 post is proposed, as indicated in paragraph A.27D.36, to strengthen the capacity of the Property Management Unit of the Division to develop and maintain a computerized inventory tracking system of United Nations property and other material assets. The abolition of one General Service (Other level) post is proposed as a result of the integration of functions related to the manual inventory of property and other assets into a computerized inventory tracking system. The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the post in question was vacant. **The Committee has no objection to the requested establishment of one P-2/1 post and the abolition of one General Service post.**

VIII.75 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.27D.38 (a) (i) that an amount of $23,411,800, reflecting a decrease of $100,000, would be required for the rental of premises in New York. **The Committee requested but did not receive (as at 13 July 2001), a breakdown of the estimates; this should be provided to the Fifth Committee before it considers the present budget section.**

VIII.76 **Similarly, the Advisory Committee also requests that information on the actual space allocation by departments and offices at Headquarters and on policies and standards related to space allocation be provided to the Fifth Committee before it considers the present budget section.**

VIII.77 The Advisory Committee requested information on elements of support in the area of facilities management (besides rental of space) for which charges are made against the support account for United Nations peacekeeping operations, such as utilities and cleaning. The Committee was informed that the computation of the peacekeeping support account costs related to facilities is based on standard common services costs in New York, covering the following elements: (a) recurrent

costs — rental, operating expense escalation, utilities and maintenance; and (b) non-recurrent costs — furniture and space reconfiguration costs.

VIII.78 **The Advisory Committee concludes from the testimony of the representatives of the Secretary-General that the Secretariat is facing a potentially very serious space problem. The Committee points out, for example, that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is currently situated in six buildings. The Committee is concerned about the problem of managing and controlling the allocation of space to the various units, offices and departments of the Secretariat and other United Nations entities. It appears that a rigid concept has developed of space ownership that is inflexible regardless of the changing needs of various units. The Committee was informed that there were instances of departments holding on to space far in excess of their needs; the standards applied in space application varied from building to building, and even from department to department. The Committee was also informed that when there was a decrease in the number of staff, the officials concerned would come up with a variety of explanations to retain the additional space.**

VIII.79 **The Advisory Committee notes that a provision of $1,812,300 is requested under section 31 (para. A.31.11 (i) (i)) for the reconfiguration of space. The Committee considers this to be a short-term, ad hoc approach. It is a temporary measure that does not address the basic problem. In the view of the Committee, there is a need to introduce measures that would discourage the tendency to request or to continue to retain large amounts of space allocated in excess of what is provided for in existing norms and standards. In this connection, the Committee requests that a study be undertaken of the feasibility of having the cost of space apportioned or otherwise identified in the presentation of the budgets of Secretariat units. The Committee also recommends that a review be made of the standards used for space allocation at Headquarters to ensure consistency and economy, with the results to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.**

Archives and records management

VIII.80 As indicated in paragraph 27D.5, in the area of archives and records management, emphasis will continue to be placed on the progressive upgrading of archives management, in particular through the application of advanced information technology and the gradual conversion of the service into a common service archival centre for use by Member States, United Nations organizations and various organizations and institutions. **The Advisory Committee welcomes the information contained in paragraph 27D.37 that the Archives and Records Management Section collaborates with other United Nations agencies in New York to reduce programme redundancies and unevenness in standards and services.**

VIII.81 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.27D.40 that the reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post to the Principal level for a senior information systems assistant is proposed to accurately reflect the post's increased responsibilities resulting from the integration of the archives and records management programme with the Organization's information system, involving coordination of activities with other departments and offices. **The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification.**

VIII.82 **The Advisory Committee recalls its prior recommendation that every effort be made to agree on modalities for sharing the capital and running costs of the new documentation centre and that the experience gained with funds and programmes in the common management of archives and records at Headquarters be extended to Geneva and other duty stations, as appropriate. The Committee notes from table 27D.18 that some progress has been made in addressing the above recommendations, as the issues raised by the Committee are under review. The Committee is not satisfied, however, with the slow pace of the implementation of its recommendations and requests that the next budget submission provide clear information on the actual results achieved in this area.**

VIII.83 **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the indicators of achievement provided in table 27D.16 do not facilitate the determination of the extent to which the stated expected accomplishments would be achieved. Such indicators as "number of offices incorporating record-keeping standards into systems applications" and "percentage of digital records with continuing value preserved in the Organization's electronic institutional memory" could have been expressed, in the view of the Committee, in measurable parameters.**

Section 27E
Administration, Geneva

VIII.84 As shown in table 27E.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General's estimated requirements for the Division of Administration of the United Nations Office at Geneva amount to $83,955,600 before recosting, reflecting a resource reduction of $456,800 as compared with the appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001. The decrease in resources, as indicated in paragraph 27E.4, is the net result of a reorganization of services and the related consolidation of resources, including, the transfer to the Library of the registry records and archival functions and the transfer of one P-2/1 and five General Service (Other level) posts from the Division of Administration.

VIII.85 Extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $15,048,000, as compared with estimated extrabudgetary resources of $14,058,000 for the biennium 2000-2001 (see table 27E.2).

VIII.86 As indicated in table 27E.3, the total number of regular budget post requirements for the biennium 2002-2003 for the Division of Administration, Geneva, is 369, as compared with 368 for the biennium 2000-2001, reflecting a net increase of one temporary regular budget post at the P-4/3 level.

VIII.87 The number of extrabudgetary posts financed from reimbursement for support to extrabudgetary administrative structures is projected for the biennium 2002-2003 at 82, reflecting a net increase of 1 Professional and 6 General Service posts as compared with 75 extrabudgetary posts for the biennium 2000-2001 (see table 27E.3).

VIII.88 The Advisory Committee observes that no indication is given under this budget section of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, which are an integral part of the results-based budgeting concept. The objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement included in budget sections 27A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management; 27B,

Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts; 27C, Office of Human Resources Management; and 27D, Office of Central Support Services, apply, as appropriate, to the respective areas of responsibility of the Division of Administration of the United Nations Office at Geneva and are not, therefore, duplicated in budget section 27E (see para. 27E.3).

VIII.89 **The Advisory Committee points out that while objectives may be the same throughout, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement should be specific to each office concerned (Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi) and should be spelled out in future proposed programme budgets. The Committee was not provided with convincing reasons for the deviation from the results-based budgeting format. The Committee understands that the major factor has been the quality of budget submissions prepared by offices away from Headquarters. The Committee trusts that the necessary training in the application of the results-based budgeting concept will be conducted for staff at offices away from Headquarters and, consequently, that the next proposed programme budget will reflect a better presentation of the results-based budgeting concept.**

VIII.90 The Advisory Committee observes that the staffing composition of the Division of Administration for the biennium 2002-2003 reflects a number of changes to the staffing structure of its units. Although an attempt was made to explain the changes at the level of the Division's units, no explanation for the changes as a whole was provided in the budget submission. **The Committee recommends that in future, such an explanation be included in the overview of the budget section.**

VIII.91 In addition to a number of internal redeployments within the Division of Administration, its staffing provides for the following changes during the biennium 2002-2003 (see paras. A.27E.4 and A.27E.20), namely:

(a) In subprogramme 2, Programme planning, budget and accounts:

(i) The establishment of two new temporary posts (1 P-4 and 1 P-3) for strengthening IMIS support in the areas of maintaining additional input data required for IMIS Release 3 transaction processing and operational procedures and coping with the increased workload at the initial stage of IMIS Release 4 implementation;

(ii) The conversion of the existing temporary P-4 post relating to IMIS support to an established post due to the continuing nature of its functions;

(b) In subprogramme 4, Support services:

(i) The outward redeployment of six posts (1 P-2 and 5 General Service (Other level)) to the Library (section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services) following the reorganization of that area of activity;

(ii) The conversion of five posts for sound technicians from general temporary assistance to established posts at the General Service level, given the continuous nature of their functions.

The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed staffing changes.

VIII.92 **The Advisory Committee notes with concern that no explanation was provided of the changes to the staffing composition funded from extrabudgetary sources. The Committee requests that detailed information on all staffing requirements, regardless of source of their funding, be included in future budget submissions.**

VIII.93 The Advisory Committee notes from table A.27E.6 that resource requirements under subprogramme 2 reflect resource growth of $3,259,400, or 23.1 per cent, over the appropriation of $14,088,000 for the biennium 2000-2001. Part of the growth is due to the redeployment of funds from subprogramme 4.

VIII.94 The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraphs A.27E.5 to A.27E.10 that a significant increase in resource requirements is proposed in connection with IMIS and technology updating. The Committee was informed that IMIS Release 4 would be fully operational by the beginning of 2002 and that testing would be completed by then.

VIII.95 **The Advisory Committee points out that investment in IMIS and other technologies should increase productivity and contribute to reducing costs.** For example, greater use of videoconferencing should result in a reduction in travel costs. The Committee was informed that the United Nations Office at Geneva had four rooms equipped for videoconferencing and that it had one mobile unit with videoconferencing equipment. **The Committee was informed that increased travel requirements were attributable in part to the need to maintain face-to-face contact, such as through the holding of seminars, retreats, management inspections and security coordination meetings; despite this explanation, the Committee questions the trend.**

VIII.96 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.27E.11 that a decrease of $499,400 in requirements for grants and contributions, which cover the services provided by ICC, is due to an anticipated reduction in the demand for mainframe services as a consequence of increased use of IMIS. Table A.27E.8 includes information on the anticipated decrease in the use of ICC during the coming biennium. The Committee was informed that the decrease was also due to the fact that ICC did not offer a mix of services required by the United Nations Office at Geneva at competitive prices. For example, the Committee was informed that the Office could obtain Internet service at prices 40 per cent lower than those offered by ICC. The Committee understands that ICC was nevertheless invited to participate in the bidding for Internet services, however the Centre declined the invitation (see para. VIII.50 above).

VIII.97 The Advisory Committee points out that the Joint Inspection Unit, in its report on United Nations system common services at Geneva, part II, Case studies (see A/55/856), made a number of recommendations on the issue of common services at Geneva, including the role of ICC. The Advisory Committee takes note of a general comment of the Secretary-General (A/55/856/Add.1, para. 27) that, although the expansion of common services might be difficult to reconcile with the policy of further decentralization in the context of management reform, some steps had been taken to underline the capacity of the United Nations Office at Geneva to take the lead in the area of common services, in particular through the establishment

of the Management Ownership Committee and the implementation of separate memoranda of understanding between the Office and all the entities it serviced.

VIII.98 The Advisory Committee recalls, in this connection, its previous recommendation in paragraph VIII.57 of its report for the biennium 2000-2001 that priority should be given to services that are good candidates for common delivery using the criteria of efficiency, productivity and cost-effectiveness. The Committee enquired into further progress in areas covered by the common service arrangements (travel, banking, printing, medical services, ICC and procurement) and sought information on the practical steps envisaged by the Secretariat with regard to the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in its report. As mentioned above, a Management Ownership Committee has been established at Geneva composed of the heads of all Geneva-based specialized agencies and the United Nations Headquarters Executive Coordinator, under the chairmanship of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva. During its first meeting, in February 2001, the Committee agreed to set up a three-tiered structure, including the Committee itself, a Task Force on Common Services and working groups, each dealing with one or more topics. At the same meeting, the Committee agreed that the Joint Purchase Service that was already in place should expand its functions to cover additional procurement and service areas. The Committee also instructed the Task Force to consider the possibility of standardizing a number of commonly used goods among participating organizations in order to group purchases with outside contractors. The Task Force has been directed to review existing volume purchase agreements with a view to expanding them for the benefit of all participating organizations. The Task Force has also been instructed to review services that are traditionally outsourced by various participating organizations, such as travel and banking agreements.

VIII.99 **The Advisory Committee points out that the proliferation of printing operations in Geneva is a particular case where economies of scale should be possible. The Committee's comments on this matter are contained in paragraph I.68 above.**

VIII.100 **The Advisory Committee welcomes the information provided to it during the hearings that discussions are under way between the United Nations, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the International Telecommunication Union to cooperate in the further development of Internet services to link major organizations at Geneva and permanent missions there and to establish an infrastructure with greater transmission capacity.** The Committee was also informed that the Management Ownership Committee had already met to agree on a common approach to the subject; other organizations had not yet committed themselves pending further development of the project. **The Committee is of the opinion that, since Geneva has the largest concentration of the organizations of the United Nations system, it would be of great benefit to Member States for those organizations to cooperate fully in the area of planning, design, development, implementation and maintenance of infrastructure for a variety of information technology services that are amenable to a common approach. One advantage of this approach is that it would strengthen considerably the positions of the organizations concerned in procuring information technology services from vendors. The Committee was informed, for example, that a similar strengthened position had been achieved in connection with the negotiation of electricity rates. The Committee is of the view that greater efforts should be made to expand the areas of cooperation.**

VIII.101 The Advisory Committee was informed that in the area of human resources management, some progress had been achieved in that the average recruitment time had been reduced from 21 to 12 weeks and the backlog of cases in the system for the administration of justice had also been reduced. The Committee notes that under the authority delegated to it, the United Nations Office at Geneva is responsible for preparing vacancy announcements and for the recruitment and appointment of General Service staff and Professional staff up to the P-4 level. The Committee was informed that there was a procedure whereby, when there is unanimous agreement in the appointment and promotion bodies in the United Nations Office at Geneva, the recommendations are sent directly to the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management. However, the Committee was further informed that even when the recommendations are accepted without change, it may take two to three weeks to communicate the decision back to the United Nations Office at Geneva for implementation. **The Committee finds such delays unacceptable.**

VIII.102 In this connection, the Advisory Committee draws attention to its comments under section 27C on the issue of capacity in the Office of Human Resources Management to monitor the delegation of authority, including the uniform application of standards set by intergovernmental bodies. Furthermore, **the Committee finds no added value in the process to approve recommendations of the Appointment and Promotion Committee in Geneva for reclassification and appointment in this instance, especially in the case of a well-established office such as the United Nations Office at Geneva. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this matter be reviewed with a view to further streamlining the process.**

VIII.103 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.27E.24 (a) that a provision of $8,187,100 is made under general operating expenses for rental and maintenance of premises. Upon request, the Committee was provided with a breakdown of this provision, as follows (in United States dollars):

Rental of premises	990 577
Minor alteration to premises	48 230
Supplies for maintenance of premises	673 370
Miscellaneous maintenance services	158 604
Electrical maintenance	649 255
Elevator maintenance	537 954
Cleaning services	3 246 273
Buildings, parks, gardens	1 882 837

VIII.104 As indicated in paragraph 27E.16, a study will be undertaken during the biennium of the physical condition of all United Nations facilities and building structures in Geneva. The Advisory Committee was informed that the study would include the issues of space allocation and arrangements for the short and long term. The Committee stresses in this connection the need for close coordination between Headquarters and offices away from Headquarters on the adoption of common policies related to space allocation.

Section 27F
Administration, Vienna

VIII.105 As shown in table 27F.3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, the Secretary-General's estimated requirements for the Division of Administrative and Common Services of the United Nations Office at Vienna amount to $23,763,300 before recosting, reflecting a resource growth of $209,800, or 0.8 per cent, as compared with the appropriation of $23,553,500 for the biennium 2000-2001. As indicated in paragraph 27F.7, the resource growth relates to increased requirements under posts, largely as a result of a delayed impact of two new posts established in the biennium 2000-2001 for support of IMIS and to an increase in the share of the United Nations Office at Vienna in the costs of the common services operating at the Vienna International Centre.

VIII.106 In table 27F.3, extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $2,670,000, as compared with an estimated $3,046,400 for the biennium 2000-2001. Upon enquiry as to the reason for the decrease, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimates for the biennium 2002-2003 were based on conservative assumptions, in view of the reduction in the demand for services from some small units in Vienna, such as UNDP and UNOPS. For the biennium 2002–2003, as for the previous biennium, no extrabudgetary posts are projected for the Division of Administrative and Common Services, Vienna (see table 27F.4).

VIII.107 As indicated in table 27F.4, the total number of regular budget post requirements for the Division of Administrative and Common Services, Vienna, for the biennium 2002-2003 is 88, compared with 86 established and 2 temporary regular budget posts for the biennium 2000-2001.

VIII.108 The Advisory Committee notes that the changes to the staffing composition of the Division are as follows (see paras. A.27F.6 and A.27F.16):

(a) In subprogramme 2, Programme planning, budget and accounts:

(i) The establishment of one General Service (Other level) post in view of the increased workload related to the processing of travel claims;

(ii) The reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post of the supervisor of the Payroll Unit to the Principal level in view of increased responsibilities as a result of the implementation of Release 4 of IMIS, including the incumbent's coordinating role in dealing with other Secretariat units in Vienna on this issue;

(b) In subprogramme 4, Support services:

(i) The conversion of one P-4 post and one General Service (Other level) post from temporary to established status for the continued support of IMIS;

(ii) The abolition of one General Service (Other level) post in the General Support Section due to downsizing of the telex operation as a result of the predominant use of electronic mail.

The Advisory Committee does not agree with the proposed establishment of one General Service post, which was requested in view of the increased workload related to the processing of travel claims. The Committee is of the view that

significant investments of the Organization in IMIS and in technological innovations should provide other means of dealing with increased workload. The Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification of one General Service (Other level) post of the supervisor of the Payroll Unit to the Principal level. Furthermore, the Committee has no objection to the proposed conversion of one P-4 post and one General Service (Other level) post from temporary to established status or to the abolition of one General Service (Other level) post.

VIII.109 The Advisory Committee observes that no indication is given under this budget section of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, which are an integral part of the results-based budgeting concept. The Committee's observations and recommendations on this issue are contained in paragraphs VIII.88 and VIII.89 above.

VIII.110 The Advisory Committee notes that in response to the recommendation contained in paragraph VIII.95 of its report for the biennium 2000-2001, the methodology of accounting for the administrative services provided to extrabudgetary programmes was reviewed by the United Nations Office at Vienna in consultation with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and, as a result, the amount of reimbursement for services, excluding security and safety and much of building management, increased from $500,000 to $689,200 annually (see table 27F.12).

VIII.111 With regard to the Advisory Committee's recommendation contained in paragraph VIII.98 of its previous report that consultations be held to identify options for a solution to the sharing of the management costs for the Vienna International Centre building, the Committee notes that discussions with other organizations located at the Vienna International Centre have not resulted in the transfer of responsibility for building management. As indicated in table 27F.12, UNIDO, while continuing to maintain management responsibility for the Centre building, adopted a number of measures to ensure maximum transparency in all building management-related operations. **The Committee was informed that no agreement had been reached on a system of advance payment from user organizations, which was one of the measures proposed with the intention of avoiding the pre-financing of building management activities by UNIDO. The Committee also notes that a continuous review of the functions of the Building Management Service is being undertaken to identify further possibilities for increased efficiency. The Committee recommends that the matter be kept under review.**

VIII.112 In the course of its consideration of the present budget section, the Advisory Committee was informed that the common fund would be subject to review during the coming biennium, the result of which could affect the shares of the participating organizations and the host Government. The Committee intends to revert to this matter as appropriate.

VIII.113 The Advisory Committee was provided, upon request, with information on the estimated shares of the organizations located at the United Nations Office at Vienna in common and joint administrative services in the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003 (see table VIII.2).

Table VIII.2
Cost (in United States dollars) and share (percentage) of administrative services provided by organizations at Vienna for the bienniums 2000-2001 and 2002-2003

	United Nations Office at Vienna		*IAEA*		*UNIDO*		*Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization*		*Total*
Common/joint service	*Cost*	*Share*	*Cost*	*Share*	*Cost*	*Share*	*Cost*	*Share*	*Cost*
Biennium 2000-2001									
Services provided by the United Nations Office at Vienna									
Security and safety	2 148.6	23.1	4 809.0	51.7	1 618.2	17.4	729.5	7.8	**9 305.4**
Laissez-passer and travel documents	72.6	82.4	6.2	7.0	5.3	6.1	3.9	4.5	**88.0**
Communications	1 349.1	55.7	-	-	832.5	34.4	240.6	9.9	**2 422.2**
Services provided by UNIDO									
Buildings management	7 522.7	23.1	16 837.3	51.7	5 665.7	17.4	2 554.3	7.8	**32 580.0**
Services provided by IAEA									
Medical service	581.3	22.2	1 413.7	54.0	446.7	17.1	177.1	6.8	**2 618.8**
Biennium 2002-2003 (at 2000-2001 rates)									
Services provided by the United Nations Office at Vienna									
Security and safety	2 129.4	22.9	4 817.9	51.8	1 658.7	17.8	696.7	7.5	**9 302.7**
Laissez-passer and travel documents	72.6	82.5	6.2	7.0	5.3	6.0	4.0	4.5	**88.0**
Communications	1 204.3	57.0	-	-	697.2	33.0	211.3	10.0	**2 112.8**
Services provided by UNIDO									
Buildings management	7 445.2	22.9	16 719.2	51.8	5 787.8	17.8	2 418.0	7.5	**32 370.2**
Services provided by IAEA									
Medical service	625.6	22.2	1 521.7	54.0	479.1	17.0	191.6	6.8	**2 818.0**

Note: For security and safety services and buildings management, the share of costs is based on office space. For travel documents, a fixed rate is charged per document. For communication services, staff cost only is distributed on a workload basis. Communications usage cost is directly billed to the user organizations. Costs for medical services are distributed based on the number of employees.

VIII.114 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 27F.22 that the removal of asbestos from the Vienna International Centre buildings, which involves the relocation of staff, is an issue of major concern. The Committee was informed that consultations and negotiations with the host Government had not been finalized. The Committee was also informed that the staff was being advised on all aspects of the issue. **The Committee requests that once an agreement has been reached, the results be communicated to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee.**

VIII.115 With regard to the delegation of authority in personnel matters, the Advisory Committee was informed that recruitment took less time in cases that were not referred to Headquarters, namely, in respect of all General Service posts and Professional posts through the P-4 level; however, with regard to the United Nations

International Drug Control Programme, the delegation of authority in personnel matters includes posts up to the D-1 level.

VIII.116 **On the basis of testimony from representatives of the Secretary-General, the Advisory Committee concludes that a review of the implementation of the delegation of authority in personnel action should be conducted with a view to streamlining the process. Under the current arrangement, there is dual delegation to the same programme manager at different levels for regular budget and extrabudgetary posts. The Committee recognizes the fact that the Secretary-General is accountable to the General Assembly for control of the staffing table as approved by the Assembly. However, the Committee is of the view that steps need to be taken to ensure that the delegation of authority by qualified staff, especially at the main duty stations, does not contribute to undue delays in personnel actions.**

VIII.117 With regard to the Information Technology Section, the Advisory Committee notes that the Section is focusing on a service-oriented approach in its overall operation and in the development and maintenance of high standards of information technology stressing timeliness, cost-effectiveness and quality for all Secretariat units and other organizations located at the Vienna International Centre. **The Committee expects that a better indication of benefits resulting from investments in technology and a clearer indication of increased productivity will be reflected in the next budget submission.**

VIII.118 As shown in table A.27F.16, requirements for jointly financed security and safety are estimated at $9,302,700 before recosting, reflecting a small decrease of $2,700 as compared with the appropriation of $9,305,400 for the biennium 2000-2001. Consistent with the common services arrangements, the resources required for the provision of security and safety services are estimated on a gross basis. For the biennium 2002-2003, the share of the United Nations in the jointly financed Security and Safety Section is estimated at $2,131,200, or 22.89 per cent of the total requirements of the Section (see para. A.27F.22 (c) and table 27F.10). The Advisory Committee notes that the provision of the United Nations share for the jointly financed Security and Safety Section is included under grants and contributions in table A.27F.13.

Section 27G
Administration, Nairobi

VIII.119 The United Nations Office at Nairobi, established in 1996 as a successor to the United Nations Common Services at Nairobi and the two separate divisions of administration of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), provides UNEP and Habitat with administrative and support services, including personnel, financial, general support, security and safety, telecommunications and information technology. Within the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the Division of Administrative Services is responsible for providing those services. As indicated in paragraph 27G.1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, under various agreements with other organizations of the United Nations system located at the compound in Nairobi, the Division also administers support services for those offices. The Advisory Committee, upon enquiry, was provided with information on the services

provided to the various United Nations bodies located at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (see table VIII.3).

VIII.120 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 27G.3 that, following the separation of conference services from the Division of Administrative Services, the Division of Conference Services was established at Nairobi effective 1 September 2000 as an organizational unit of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services, and that in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 the Division of Conference Services is programmed in the context of section 2, General Assembly affairs and conference services.

VIII.121 The Advisory Committee observes that no indication is given under this budget section of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, which are an integral part of the results-based budgeting concept. The Committee's observations and recommendations on this issue are contained in paragraphs VIII.88 and VIII.89 above.

VIII.122 As indicated in paragraph 27G.2, both UNEP and Habitat, which are funded predominately from extrabudgetary resources, reimburse the United Nations Office at Nairobi for the services provided to them; thus, the administration in Nairobi is funded largely from extrabudgetary resources. The Advisory Committee notes that in response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997 to bring the financial arrangements of the United Nations Office at Nairobi into line with those of similar United Nations administrative offices, the Secretary-General has made a commitment to gradually increase the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi with a view to easing the administrative costs levied on the substantive programmes of UNEP and Habitat.

VIII.123 The further strengthening of the regular budget component of the United Nations Office at Nairobi is reflected in the budget proposal for the biennium 2002-2003. As shown in table 27G.2, the Secretary-General's estimated regular budget requirements for the Division of Administrative Services of the United Nations Office at Nairobi amount to $11,034,000 before recosting, reflecting a resource increase of $979,500, or about 9.7 per cent as compared with the appropriation of $10,054,500 for the biennium 2000-2001. Extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2002-2003 are estimated at $13,604,400 as compared with $14,903,600 for 2000-2001.

VIII.124 As indicated in table 27G.3 and paragraph 27G.4, for the biennium 2002-2003, the total number of regular budget post requirements for the Division of Administrative Services, Nairobi, is 140, as compared with 130 for the biennium 2000-2001, a net increase of 10 posts. These 10 additional regular budget posts would provide administrative services that otherwise would have to be financed from the extrabudgetary resources of UNEP and Habitat.

Table VIII.3
Services provided to organizations located at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

Provided to	*Type of service*										
	Security and safety	*Grounds and buildings management*	*Passports and visas*	*Travel and shipping documents*	*Mail, pouch and courier*	*Duty-free and tax exemption*	*Catering*	*Network services*	*Telephone*	*Language training*	*Medical*
Habitat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
UNEP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
United Nations Office at Nairobi	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
FAO	X	X					X			X	X
ICAO	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
Office of Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Great Lakes Region	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
United Nations Centre for Regional Development	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
UNDCP	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
UNDP	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
UNESCO	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
UNFPA	X	X					X		X	X	X
UNHCR	X				X[b]	X				X	X
United Nations Information Centre	X	X	X	X	X[b]		X	X	X	X	X
UNICEF	X	X	X[a]		X[b]		X	X	X	X	X
UNIDO	X	X					X		X	X	X
UNIFEM	X	X					X		X	X	X
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	X				X[b]		X	X		X	X
OIOS	X	X					X	X	X	X	X
UNOPS	X	X					X		X	X	X
United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office	X	X			X[b]		X	X	X	X	X
WFP	X	X					X		X	X	X
WHO	X									X	X
ILO	X									X	X
IMO	X									X	X

[a] Only for renewal of laissez-passer.
[b] Only pouch service.

VIII.125 The number of extrabudgetary posts for the biennium 2002-2003, financed from reimbursement for services in support of the United Nations organizations, is projected at 188, reflecting a decrease of 11 posts (10 Professional and 1 General Service), as compared with 199 extrabudgetary posts projected for the biennium 2000-2001 (see table 27G.4). The Advisory Committee that the decrease of 11 extrabudgetary posts is due to the establishment under the regular budget of 10 posts that previously had been financed from extrabudgetary sources and the abolition of one Local level post (table A.27G.3, footnote b).

VIII.126 The Advisory Committee notes from table A.27G.2 that, for the biennium 2002–2003, $8,185,700, or about 74.2 per cent of the total regular budget estimate ($11,034,000), would be required to cover the cost of posts; however, $12,495,800, or about 91.8 per cent of the total estimate for extrabudgetary resources ($13,604,400), would be for posts. In this connection, **the Committee reiterates its observation in paragraph VIII.110 of its report for the biennium 2000-2001 that extrabudgetary resources may have been overestimated and that there may be a risk of establishing more posts and recruiting more staff than can be funded from extrabudgetary resources.**

VIII.127 **The Advisory Committee notes from table 27G.9 that, in response to its recommendation in paragraph IV.73 of its previous report on the need to determine more accurately the level of services that the United Nations Office at Nairobi is required to provide to the organizations at Nairobi and the rates of reimbursing the cost of those services, the Office undertook a review in 2000 and another in 2001, with no apparent results as yet. The Committee regrets that as of the time of its examination of the budget estimates for the Division of Administration at Nairobi, no agreement had yet been reached between UNEP, Habitat and the United Nations Office at Nairobi on this matter; the Committee trusts that this will be done expeditiously.**

VIII.128 The Advisory Committee notes that the changes to the staffing composition of the Division of Administrative Services are as follows (see paras. A.27G.4, A.27G.5 and A.27G.8 and table A.27G.14):

(a) In subprogramme 2, Programme planning, budget and accounts:

(i) The establishment of four regular budget posts (2 P-3 and 2 P-2) and the corresponding abolition of four extrabudgetary posts of the same level;

(ii) The redeployment of one extrabudgetary P-3 post from the Information Technology Service;

(b) In subprogramme 3, Human resources management:

(i) The establishment of three regular budget posts (1 P-3 and 2 P-2) and the corresponding abolition of three extrabudgetary posts of the same level;

(ii) The redeployment of two extrabudgetary posts (1 P-2 and 1 Local level) from the Information Technology Service;

(c) In subprogramme 4, Support services:

(i) The establishment of three regular budget posts (1 P-3 and 2 P-2) and the corresponding abolition of three extrabudgetary posts of the same level;

(ii) The conversion of one P-4 post and one General Service (Local level) post relating to support of IMIS from temporary to established status;

(iii) The redeployment of three extrabudgetary posts (1 P-3 , 1 P-2 and 1 Local level) to other services;

(iv) The abolition of one extrabudgetary Local level post in the Information Technology Service.

The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed establishment of four P-3 and six P-2 posts and to the proposed conversion of one P-4 and one General Service (Local level) temporary posts to established status.

VIII.129 The Advisory Committee notes that in the Information Technology Service, three extrabudgetary posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 1 General Service (Local level)) are proposed for redeployment to other services within the Division and that one extrabudgetary post (General Service (Local level)) will be abolished. The Committee enquired into possible implications of the reduction in staff on the activities of the Information Technology Service during the biennium 2002-2003 and was informed that the three extrabudgetary posts provided systems support for information technology systems employed by the Budget and Financial Management Service and the Human Resources Management Service; those functions were previously provided from the Information Technology Service, and the transfer of the posts is part of rationalization of the activities within the United Nations Office at Nairobi that will strengthen overall capacity.

VIII.130 The Advisory Committee notes from table A.27G.15 that the number of videoconferences to be conducted will decrease from 300 for the biennium 2000-2001 to 200 for the biennium 2002-2003. The Committee was informed that because of the state of the local infrastructure, arranging traditional videoconferences had become more difficult.

Part IX
Internal oversight

Section 28
Internal oversight

IX.1 As indicated in table 28.2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[1] the total level of resources requested for 2002-2003 is $19,508,700 before recosting, reflecting a net increase of $758,000, or 4 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for 2000-2001 of $18,750,700.

IX.2 Extrabudgetary resources, which are projected at $17,114,800 for 2002-2003, would provide for auditing and investigation of the United Nations funds and programmes, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/WTO, the United Nations Compensation Commission, UNHCR, the two International Tribunals, technical cooperation activities and peacekeeping

operations. In this regard, the Advisory Committee also had before it the updated report of the Secretary-General on enhancing the internal oversight mechanisms in operational funds and programmes (A/55/826 and Corr.1). The Committee notes that the increase in extrabudgetary resources from the $13,638,600 shown for 2000-2001 in table A.28.1 of the proposed programme budget is related mostly to services in support of peacekeeping operation activities and to United Nations organizations, as a result of the new mechanism established to reimburse the Office of Internal Oversight Services for investigations and audit services provided to funds and programmes (see table 28.13 and A/55/826, recommendation 1.B).

IX.3 The Advisory Committee was informed that the resources proposed under section 28 took into account its previous observations and recommendations and those of the Committee on Programme and Coordination, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/249, concerning the functional utility of merging the Central Evaluation Unit and the Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit (see paras. IX.8 and IX.9 below) and addressing the decreasing level of resources for the Central Evaluation Unit, the establishment of a cost-reimbursement mechanism for services rendered by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to operational funds and programmes and the separation of programme support from executive direction and management.

IX.4 In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the decrease of $1,229,000, or 48.9 per cent, under executive direction and management (see table 28.2) as a result of the separation of programme support functions from the Executive Office of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

IX.5 **The presentation of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement for section 28 is, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, a good example in that they are precise, concise and attainable. The Committee trusts that further fine-tuning will come with experience. The comments and observations of the Committee in this regard are set out in chapter I above.**

IX.6 As shown in table 28.3, the number of posts funded from regular budget resources is proposed to increase by 4 from a total of 87 posts approved for 2000-2001 (59 Professional and 28 General Service) to 91 for 2002-2003 (61 Professional and 30 General Service). Extrabudgetary posts increased from 61 in 2000-2001 to 70 in 2002-2003.

IX.7 The resource growth of $732,800 under posts (4.3 per cent) reflects the establishment of two Professional posts (one at the P-4 level in New York and one at the P-3 level in Geneva), one General Service post in Geneva and one Local level post in Nairobi under subprogramme 4, Investigations, in view of the increasing workload, the need to reduce the backlog and the establishment of an investigation unit in Geneva, as well as the strengthening of investigative services in Nairobi (see table A.28.2 and para. A.28.22). The reclassification of an auditor post from the P-4 to the P-5 level is proposed (see para. A.28.15). The reclassification of two D-1 posts to the D-2 level are also proposed for the Director of the newly merged Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division and the Director of the strengthened Investigations Division (see paras. A.28.8 and A.28.22 respectively). **The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to establish the new posts. The Committee was not, however, convinced by the arguments given to reclassify the P-4 post of auditor or by those given for upgrading the**

two Director posts of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division and the Investigations Division.

IX.8 The Advisory Committee, in paragraph IX.7 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[3] had recommended that the functional and operational utility of merging the Central Evaluation Unit with the Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit be reviewed. The Committee was informed that a strategic planning exercise was carried out allowing for a comprehensive internal review of all subprogrammes, which culminated in a strategic planning framework and implementation plan to meet the overall objectives of the oversight programme as well as structural changes that reflected the realignment of four subprogrammes into three: (a) audit; (b) monitoring, evaluation and consulting; and (c) investigations. The new organizational structure of the Office includes the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, the Audit Division, the Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division, the Investigations Division and the Executive Office. As indicated in paragraph 28.5, the realignment of the subprogrammes is to be reflected in the forthcoming revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

IX.9 As a result of the review, the former Central Evaluation Unit, the Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit and the management consulting functions of the current Audit and Management Consulting Division have been merged into the new Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division, which will be responsible for the activities under subprogrammes 1 and 3 of the medium-term plan, in addition to the management consulting activities under subprogramme 2. Total staffing of the new Division will comprise 21 posts (15 Professional, including 1 funded from extrabudgetary funds, and 6 General Service (see table A.28.10).

IX.10 The Advisory Committee further notes that the functions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to be performed in Europe will be grouped into one office in Geneva, to be headed by the Chief of the UNHCR Audit Service and to include a monitoring, evaluation and consulting unit and an investigations unit to cope with the caseload there. The Committee was further informed that the Geneva office would have a small administrative unit handling most administrative and support matters for the different functional units. Depending upon how well that arrangement works out, a similar structural arrangement could be considered for Nairobi in due course.

IX.11 As shown in table A.28.11, the regular budget resources allocated to the audit part of subprogramme 2, the activities of which will be implemented by the Audit Division, amount to $8,138,900 before recosting for 2002-2003, compared with $8,670,100 for 2000-2001. The staffing comprises 40 regular budget posts, reflecting the outward redeployment of the 4 posts to the new Division mentioned above, as well as 58 extrabudgetary posts (see table A.28.12).

IX.12 As for subprogramme 4, in view of the increase in demand for investigative services, the activities will be strengthened by the new posts mentioned in paragraph IX.7 above, by establishing a new investigations unit at the Geneva office of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and by elevating the Investigations Section in New York to a Division. The resources proposed shown in table A.28.13 include regular budget resources of $4,237,000 before recosting, reflecting a 10 per cent increase compared with 2000-2001, while extrabudgetary resources increase from an estimated $618,400 in 2000-2001 to $3,272,200 for 2002-2003 (see para. IX.2 above). The Committee was informed that 467 cases had been received in 1998-

1999 (an average of 20 cases per investigator per year), whereas by 2000, the average rate had increased to 30 cases per investigator per year. At that rate at least 768 cases would be received by the end of the biennium 2000-2001.

IX.13 The Advisory Committee requested additional information for the past two years regarding the total number of investigations per year, the source of the request, the number of administrative actions resulting from the investigation and the number of cases of serious wastage and/or fraud (see table IX.1 below).

Table IX.1
Investigation cases for 1999 and 2000

Case category	*1999*	*2000*
Total number of cases received	255	384
Request from staff	42%	30%
Request from administration	34%	53%
Other	24%	17%
Number of cases resulting in disciplinary action	5	11
Number of cases resulting in reference to national law enforcement agencies for serious wastage/fraud	4	16

Table IX.2
Cases relating to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for 2000 and 2001

Case category	*2000*	*2001*
Total number of cases received	100	47
OIOS initiative	8%	8%
Request from staff	44%	32%
Request from administration	35%	40%
Other	13%	20%

IX.14 **While welcoming the new emphasis on management auditing and consulting, the Advisory Committee trusts that the balance among audit, investigation, evaluation and monitoring will be maintained within the new programme allocation. The Committee was assured by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services that the balance would be maintained. The Committee requests, however, that information be included in the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 on how the new structures and programmatic realignment have performed.**

IX.15 The Advisory Committee also exchanged views regarding further refinement and improvement of the evaluation processes. The Committee notes that one of the outputs linked to central monitoring and inspection is assisting departments and offices in their own evaluation activities by responding to their queries and providing them with training workshops, a manual and periodic bulletins (para. 28.22 (b) (i)). The Committee was informed that the manual was in progress and should be ready by 2002. The Committee was also assured by the Under-Secretary-

General of the importance attached by the Office to the frequency and timing of evaluation. **The Committee strongly believes that evaluation is an integral part of the process of implementing results-based budgeting and that what is learned from the evaluation process must consistently be taken into account in the preparation of the medium-term plan, as well as in the formulation, review and approval of the programme budget, in line with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.**

IX.16 Furthermore, the Advisory Committee stresses the importance of training and of sharing improvements made and best practices across the system by either printed or electronic means.

IX.17 The Advisory Committee also notes that one of the outputs listed in relation to central monitoring and inspection is the enhancement of the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System as an internal monitoring tool (para. 28.22 (b) (ii) b). The Committee refers to the system in section 9 above.

IX.18 The Advisory Committee was informed that a trust fund had been established to enhance the professional skills of oversight staff in the area of information technology, with the objective of remaining abreast of the changing information technology environment and associated internal control risks. The Committee notes that, at present, state-of-the-art information technology, such as computerized workflow systems, are deficient or practically non-existent in the Office. **The Committee is of the opinion that information technology is a central management tool of the Office. Accordingly, priority should be given to funding such technology from the regular budget, supplemented, if necessary, by extrabudgetary resources.**

Part X
Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses

X.1. The Secretary-General's estimate for part X, Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[1] amounts to $69,195,600, comprising $8,212,800 for section 29, Jointly financed administrative activities, and $60,982,800 for section 30, Special expenses.

Section 29
Jointly financed administrative activities

X.2. Resources are requested under this section for five bodies of the United Nations that are financed on an inter-agency basis:

(a) The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and its secretariat;

(b) The Joint Inspection Unit and its secretariat;

(c) The United Nations share in the budget of the secretariat of the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, namely, the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes, and inter-agency activities related to the coordination of information and communication technology policy.

International Civil Service Commission

X.3. As can be seen from paragraph 29.19 of the proposed programme budget, the full budget for ICSC for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $12,069,600 before recosting, reflecting a decrease of $94,900 compared with the appropriation for 2000-2001. The Advisory Committee notes from the same paragraph and paragraph 29.20 that the share of the United Nations (including UNHCR and UNRWA) amounts to $4,525,900 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $46,600 compared with the appropriation of $4,479,300 for 2000-2001. The Committee also notes that the increase of $46,600 is the net result of a decrease in the full budget being more than offset by a slight upward revision of the percentage share of the United Nations in the ICSC budget, which, as recently approved by the Advisory Committee on Coordination, now stands at 37.5 per cent as compared with 36.8 per cent.

X.4. As indicated in table A.29.5 and paragraph A.29.5, the proposed number of established regular budget posts at ICSC is 44 (20 Professional and 24 General Service), the same number as in 2000-2001. In addition, two new temporary posts (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Principal level)) are being requested under the regular budget for 2002-2003. The new posts are to support and maintain the Commission's integrated management information system, which has been developed following a recommendation of the Board of Auditors, which was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/216 of 18 December 1996. **The Committee recommends approval of the request for two new temporary posts (1 P-3 and 1 General Service (Principal level)).**

X.5. With regard to the implementation of IMIS, the Advisory Committee was informed that preparations were at an advanced stage and that it was hoped that the system would be implemented by the end of 2001.

X.6. In connection with the master standard for the classification of posts, the Advisory Committee was informed that its applicability needed to be revisited, taking into account recent developments.

Joint Inspection Unit

X.7. In accordance with article 20 of the statute of the Joint Inspect Unit, the Unit's budget is included in the regular budget of the United Nations. Its budget estimates are established by the Secretary-General after consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the basis of proposals made by the Unit.

X.8. The Advisory Committee notes that, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/230 of 23 December 2000, the Secretary-General has submitted the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the budget proposals (see annex II to sect. 29).

X.9. As indicated in paragraph 29.26, the full budget of the Joint Inspection Unit for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $6,968,300 before recosting, reflecting a decrease of $1,200 compared with the appropriation for 2000-2001. The Advisory Committee notes from the same paragraph and paragraph 29.27 that the United Nations share in the total budget would be $2,222,900 before recosting, or 31.9 per cent, reflecting a decrease of $149,800 compared with the appropriation for 2000-2001. The decrease of $149,800 is attributable to the combined effect of a lower full budget with a downward revision of the percentage share of the United Nations from 33.8 per cent.

X.10 The Advisory Committee notes from table A.29.8 and paragraph A.29.19 that the proposed number of established posts is 20 (9 Professional and 11 General Service) including the proposed establishment of 3 new posts (1 P-4 and 2 General Service) and the abolition of two P-2 posts. The Committee was informed that the new P-4 post was required to strengthen the research capacity of the Unit by providing the skills needed to perform research and prepare reports requiring specialized expertise in complex issues. The two new General Service posts would provide additional support and research capacity. Furthermore, the Committee notes from paragraph A.29.20 that $35,400 is requested for the hiring of individual contractors with specialized knowledge to enhance the Unit's capacity to handle specialized research.

X.11 Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that one P-2 post was vacant and that the other was likely to be vacant before the end of 2001. The Committee notes the statement in paragraph A29.19 that the abolition of the two P-2 posts was based on the fact that, because of the complexity of the activities of the Unit, junior-level staff did not prove to be efficient, as they lacked the necessary expertise and knowledge of the United Nations system issues that were within the competence of the Unit. **In the opinion of the Committee, this problem may be related more to human resources management than to the issue of the level of expertise available at the entry level.**

X.12 The Advisory Committee notes that the Advisory Committee on Coordination has endorsed the proposals of the Joint Inspection Unit (see annex II to sect. 29). **Accordingly, and subject to its observations above, the Committee interposes no objection to the proposals related to the Joint Inspection Unit.**

X.13 On the estimate for travel, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.29.18 that the reduction of $65,400 is due to the anticipated use of videoconferences. The Committee welcomes the intention of the Unit to employ greater use of videoconferences with a view to achieving economies under this item.

Subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination

X.14 The Advisory Committee recalls that when it considered the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, the subsidiary bodies of the Administrative Committee on Coordination consisted of the Information Systems Coordination Committee, the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions.

X.15 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 29.2 that the Administrative Committee on Coordination, at its regular session of 2000, established two high-level committees, namely, the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes. The two committees will perform the functions previously carried out by the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions and the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions, which have been abolished. The High-level Committee on Management will also provide guidance in the area of coordinating information and communication technology; the functions of the former Information Systems Coordination Committee will be carried out through a network of task forces and working groups.

X.16 The Advisory Committee was informed that task forces and working groups would be established on an ad hoc basis for specific tasks and projects and for a limited duration. Upon completion of the projects, the task forces would report to the High-level Committee on Management for decisions to be taken. The Committee was also informed that the review of the structure of the Administrative Committee on Coordination was continuing and that when it was completed, the Advisory Committee would be informed.

X.17 The Advisory Committee was further informed that the changes in the Advisory Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery would most probably lead to savings as a result of the consolidation of the bodies into a single secretariat, which would be reflected in the budget for the biennium 2004-2005. In this regard, the Committee reiterates that the full cost of the Advisory Committee on Coordination and its machinery and the results of its work must be disclosed in a transparent manner, as requested in paragraph IV.12 of its report on the budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

Section 30
Special expenses

X.18 The Secretary-General's estimate for section 30, Special expenses, for 2002-2003 amounts to $56,934,300 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $2,422,600 compared with the appropriation of $54,511,700 for 2000-2001 (see table 30.1).

X.19 With regard to the resource requirements for inter-organizational security measures, the Advisory Committee was informed that the amount of $2,424,800 was provisional. The Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session, through the Advisory Committee, the full budget for part A of section 30 and the cost-sharing arrangements requested by the Assembly in its resolution 55/238. On that basis, the Advisory Committee decided to defer consideration of the estimates for inter-organizational security measures until the related report of the Secretary-General is available.

X.20 As indicated in table 30.4 of the proposed programme budget, the estimated requirements for after-service health insurance amount to $50,174,400 before recosting, reflecting an increase of $3,415,000 compared with the appropriation for 2000-2001. The increase is based on an anticipated annual increase in membership in the insurance programme as well as in insurance premiums during the biennium 2002-2003 (see para. 30.15). The Advisory Committee notes from table 30.9 that the report on the long-term implications and impact of the growth in the liability of the Organization for after-health insurance benefits requested by the Committee in its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999[5] is being prepared and will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

Part XI
Capital expenditures

Section 31
Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

XI.1 Part XI of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[1] covers section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, for which an estimate of $45,736,600 is proposed. The estimated resource requirements of $44,048,500 before recosting reflect a decrease of $5,718,800, or 11.4 per cent, compared with the 2000-2001 appropriation (see table 31.2). The decrease reflects the deletion of a one-time provision of $8 million granted by the General Assembly for the preparation of a comprehensive design and cost analysis for the capital master plan, as indicated in paragraph 31.9. This is offset by an increase of $2,281,200 under other projects. No extrabudgetary resources are included in this part of the proposed programme budget.

XI.2 The total of $44,048,500 before recosting comprises estimates for Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna, the United Nations Office at Nairobi, ESCAP, ECLAC and ECA for alteration and improvement ($28,445,200) and major maintenance ($15,603,300) (see table 31.4). As indicated in paragraph 31.2, capital expenditure resources are requested centrally under this section in order to ensure a coordinated and systematic approach to problems of common concern related to facilities management, major maintenance and construction; however, staff and related costs for administering the activities are included under their respective sections of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003.

XI.3 As indicated in paragraph 31.8, the proposed estimate of $44,048,500 does not include resources for the implementation of the capital master plan, since the General Assembly has yet to take a final decision on it (see Assembly resolution 55/238, sect. IV, and A/55/117 and Add.1). **The Advisory Committee points out that a final decision on the capital master plan may have an impact on the formulation of requirements under section 31, but this can be determined only after the Assembly takes action on the plan. In this connection, the Committee draws attention to and reiterates the comments it made in paragraph XI.4 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.**[3]

XI.4 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 31.3 that the Office of Central Support Services will continue to provide integrated and coordinated management policy and guidelines to locations outside of Headquarters. The Committee was informed of the establishment of a property management exchange network that includes specialized agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions; regular meetings are held during which information and best practices are shared on building management issues, including space allocation.

XI.5 As indicated in paragraph 31.7, a number of projects included in the biennium 2002-2003 had been approved previously by the General Assembly but had to be deferred owing either to limited resources or to the need to undertake other unforeseen emergency projects, or are a continuation of previously approved multi-year projects. The Committee notes from table 31.3 that the estimated requirements for the projects deferred from prior periods are as follows: $400,000 for

Headquarters, $225,000 for the United Nations Office at Nairobi and $366,200 for ESCAP.

XI.6 The Advisory Committee notes that alteration and improvement projects provide for estimated requirements related to the improvement of technological infrastructure, including $3,740,200 for Headquarters, $587,100 for the United Nations Office at Geneva and $29,300 for ESCAP (see paras. A.31.1 (d), A.31.2 (d) and A.31.6 (d)). In this connection, the Committee draws attention to the observation contained in the report of the Secretary-General on information technology in the Secretariat that requirements and capacity for information and communication technologies vary from department to department or duty station to duty station in terms of infrastructure, human resources capacity and other financial resources both requested and allocated; this situation is sometimes aggravated, at certain duty stations, by a lack of local facilities and/or human resources and by local telecommunication costs (see A/55/780, para. 12). The Committee also draws attention to the observation that if no global effort is made to focus effectively on the needs and role of information and communication technologies, the Secretariat will rapidly fall behind and overall performance and programme delivery will be affected (ibid., para. 13). **In view of the above observations, the Committee questions the lack of proposals to upgrade technological infrastructure at offices away from Headquarters.**

XI.7 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph A.31.2 (c) that a provision of $2,439,100 is made in connection with improvements in security and safety at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The measures for upgrading security arrangements at the Office were outlined in the report of the Secretary-General (A/55/511). **The Committee has no objection to the provision requested.**

Part XII
Staff assessment

Section 32
Staff assessment

XII.1 As indicated in paragraph 32.1 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003[1], the salary and related emoluments of the United Nations staff members are subject to the assessment in regulation 3.3 of the Staff Regulations of the United Nations and amendments thereto. The Advisory Committee notes that, for the purpose of comparability with the work programme and budget proposals of other organizations of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General has estimated the staff costs net of staff assessment under the various expenditure sections of the proposed programme budget. The difference between gross and net salaries amounts to $343,594,500 after recosting for 2002-2003, and that amount is requested by the Secretary-General as a global amount under section 32.

XII.2 The Advisory Committee notes that, in accordance with the current budgetary procedure of the United Nations, amounts withheld in the form of staff assessment are considered revenue to the Organization. Accordingly, the amount of $343,594,500 requested under section 32 is reflected in income section 1, Income from staff assessment, which also includes staff assessment from staff charged to revenue-producing activities, as indicated in paragraph IS1.1.

XII.3. **The Advisory Committee notes that for the reasons given in table 32.1, the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 24 of its resolution 54/249 to present one consolidated section for staff assessment inflows and outflows cannot be implemented.**

Part XIII
Development Account

Section 33
Development Account

XIII.1 As indicated in section 33 of the proposed programme budget,[1] the estimate proposed for the Development Account for 2002-2003 remains at $13,065,000 (see paras. 33.1-33.5 and table 33.1). This amount represents the amount authorized by the General Assembly for the biennium 1998-1999 in its resolution 52/221 A of 22 December 1997. The management and sustainability of the Development Account is governed by General Assembly resolution 54/15 of 29 October 1999. In that resolution, the Assembly decided that: (a) savings to be achieved as a result of efficiency measures could be identified in the context of budget performance reports and should be transferred to the Development Account section with the prior approval of the Assembly; and (b) the savings transferred to the Development Account section should form the maintenance base in future proposed programme budgets. Accordingly, by its resolution 54/250 A of 23 December 1999, the Assembly approved an appropriation for the Development Account of $13,065,000 (see para. 33.3). The Advisory Committee notes that no proposals have been made for transfer to the account for 2002-2003.

XIII.2 In view of the level of income estimated for the Development Account for 2002-2003, which is based solely on carry-over income, the Advisory Committee requested clarification concerning the output listed under administrative support services in section 27A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, which reads "validation of sustainable productivity gains proposed by programme managers for submission to the General Assembly for potential transfer to the Development Account" (para. 27A.12 (c) (viii)). The Committee also asked for an explanation of the impact of the statement in paragraph 57 of the Introduction of the proposed programme budget that "in many cases where there have been savings in dollar terms, programme managers have redirected the released resources to priority areas within their budget sections", taking into account the statement of the Committee in its report on the Development Account in which it pointed out that the degree to which efficiency measures can continue to lead to quantifiable resources for transfer to the Account would be affected by a prolongation of the current budgetary constraints (A/53/7/Add.1, para. 10).

XIII.3 The Advisory Committee received a response from the Under-Secretary-General for Management in which he stated that productivity and efficiency activities were by nature long term and that after having been able to identify a series of quick gains early on, it would require some "maturation" before new activities generated savings that were sustainable and therefore would qualify for redeployment to the Development Account. **In this connection, the Committee reiterates that it concurs with the view expressed in paragraph 57 of the Introduction to the proposed programme budget that efficiency measures and**

performance measurement do not necessarily yield immediate savings and that sometimes efficiency measures require new investment, particularly in information technology (see chap. I, para. 63, above).

XIII.4 The Advisory Committee also had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account. The Committee notes that 23 projects have been approved, at a total cost of $26,130,000, since the establishment of the Development Account (A/55/913, para. 2). As shown in annexes II and III to the report, of the amount approved, a total of $8,884,000 had been spent as at 31 March 2001 ($6,900,600 for projects funded in the biennium 1998-1999 and $1,983,400 for projects funded in the biennium 2000-2001), leaving a balance of $17,246,000. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the reason for the low expenditure for 1998-1999 related to the timing of the approval of the projects. The General Assembly had approved the projects for 1998-1999 in its resolutions 53/220 A of 7 April 1999 and 53/220 B of 8 June 1999.

XIII.5 **The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General, in his next report on the issue, to provide a thematic impact analysis of the projects. In addition, the Committee recommends that the table in annex III to his report be expanded to include for each project the date of commencement, the projected date of completion and the implementing agency.**

B. Estimates of income

Income section 1
Income from staff assessment

IS1.1 In the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003,[1] the Secretary-General estimates $348,364,200 as the amount of staff assessment under expenditure section 32, Staff assessment, and income section 3, Services to the public. The amount of staff assessment not otherwise disposed of by specific resolution of the General Assembly will be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund, established by the Assembly in its resolution 973 A (X) of 15 December 1955 for distribution to Member States in accordance with the scale of assessments for the regular budget applicable to the financial year concerned.

IS1.2 The total estimate under income section 1 is $4,769,700 more than the total estimate under section 32 because the former includes income from staff assessment derived from emoluments of staff who are charged to revenue-producing activities under income section 3; on the other hand, the staff assessment paid to such staff is shown under income section 3 rather than section 32.

Income section 2
General income

IS2.1 As indicated in tables IS2.1 and IS2.2 of the proposed programme budget, the estimate of total general income for the biennium 2002-2003 amounts to $47,164,000, an increase of $4,435,400 compared with the estimate of $42,728,600 for 2000-2001.

IS2.2 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph IS2.1 that an increase of $656,100 in income from the rental of premises at Headquarters is the net effect of the application of a higher rental rate beginning in 2002, a reduction in the amount

of space provided to some tenants and changes in rental arrangements for some in-house contractors, including the travel agency.

IS2.3 Upon request, the Advisory Committee received a list of tenants at Headquarters. The Committee was informed that the major change in the current rental arrangements was the increase in the standard annual rental rate from $30 per square foot to $59 per square foot, effective 1 January 2002, which is in line with General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, which required that Member States and others occupying office space on United Nations premises pay rent based on current commercial rates. **The Committee expects that care will be taken to ensure that tenancy agreements entered into by the United Nations with commercial entities regarding its properties are in line with agreements concluded by outside landlords of comparable premises.**

IS2.4 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph IS2.3 that an estimated $6 million in interest is expected during the biennium 2002-2003, representing an increase of $955,500 compared with the approved estimates for 2000-2001. **The Committee commends the Secretariat for the actions taken to maximize income from bank interest.** In this connection, the Committee notes that the Secretariat now engages in competitive bidding on bank charges pursuant to a previous recommendation of the Advisory Committee.

IS2.5 With regard to the sale of used equipment, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph IS2.4 that an estimate of $757,000 is projected for the biennium 2002-2003, representing an increase of $334,500 compared with the approved estimates for 2000-2001. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that the bulk of income from the sale of used equipment in 2000 came from field missions funded under the regular budget and that the rest came from other offices away from Headquarters. The Committee was also informed that the used equipment included vehicles, generators, scrap communication equipment, office equipment, electronic data-processing equipment and containers, and that it was sold through a bidding process.

IS2.6 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph IS2.7 that income from television and similar services is projected to decrease. The Committee recalls that during its consideration of the proposed programme budget for 2000-2001, it was informed that a new pricing policy had been introduced under which television companies would be permitted to have access to United Nations programmes free of charge, while the United Nations would be allowed free access to companies' television studios, libraries and the like. **The Committee reiterates its recommendation that measures be introduced to assess the extent to which the United Nations is using the facilities that have been offered and requests that the Secretary-General report thereon.**

Income section 3
Services to the public

IS3.1 As indicated in table IS3.2 of the proposed programme budget, the net revenue under income section 3 for the biennium 2002-2003 is projected at $4,637,900, which represents a decrease of $331,000 compared with the revised estimates for 2000-2001. Revenue-producing activities are carried out at Headquarters and at Geneva and Vienna by the Department of Public Information, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of Central Support

Services, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna, ECA, ESCAP and the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts.

IS3.2 The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph IS3.47 that provision is made for 16 full-time public information assistants at Headquarters. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that public information assistants were the "core group" of guides who served on fixed-term contracts, usually for one year at a time, supplemented from time to time by guides hired on the basis of special service agreements. The Committee was also informed that the guides were funded under other staff costs, regardless of contractual status, and that there had never been established posts for them.

IS3.3 With regard to garage operation at Headquarters, **the Advisory Committee recommends that there be better coordination of repairs and maintenance in order to minimize the inconvenience to delegates and staff.**

IS3.4 The Advisory Committee notes that the recommendation of the Committee in paragraph IS3.2 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001[3] to analyse the full implications of the payment of local taxes on the sale of gift items is still under review (see table IS3.31). **The Committee points to what appears to be an inordinate delay in completing this review and requests that the results be made known to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee in time for it to be taken into account during the consideration of the proposed programme budget.**

Proposed measures to improve the profitability of commercial activities of the United Nations

IS3.5 The report of the Secretary-General on proposed measures to improve the profitability of commercial activities of the United Nations (A/55/546) was submitted to the General Assembly in November 2000. The Advisory Committee indicated that it would take up the question in the context of its consideration of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

IS3.6 The report covers major areas where reforms are envisaged, namely, the United Nations Postal Administration, guided tours, the United Nations Bookshop and publications, the Gift Centre, catering services and the news-stand. **Although the report is evidence that some thought is being given by the Secretariat to reorienting its commercial activities, it is still too general and should be followed by a blueprint with specific commercial goals and the concrete steps that would be taken to achieve them.**

IS3.7 The report identifies a number of general findings common to all the commercial activities that need to be addressed on a priority basis. These include the determination that commercial activities should be managed separately from other core activities of the Secretariat and that as current staff retire, there may be a need to recruit personnel with some commercial management experience for those positions.

IS3.8 With respect to the United Nations Postal Administration (see ibid., paras. 16-21), **in view of the continuing decline in income from the sale of stamps and even the potential for a loss, the Advisory Committee is of the view that there is a need for a fundamental rethinking of the way this activity is run; in this connection, the possibility of outsourcing this activity to an enterprise specializing in the production and marketing of philatelic material should be explored. In addition, the matter of negotiating more favourable rates of**

reimbursement to be paid by the United Nations to the United States Postal Service should be explored.

IS3.9 Guided tours are discussed in the report of the Secretary-General on the new United Nations visitors' experience (A/55/835; see ibid., para. 22, and chap. I above). The Advisory Committee notes that the reason for raising ticket prices for tours is to have them in line with the ticket prices of the comparator institutions (see para. IS3.42).

IS3.10 **In connection with the United Nations Bookshop, the Advisory Committee is in agreement with the recommendation of the Secretary-General that the United Nations consider using a contractor with book and/or retail experience (A/55/546, para. 27). In the opinion of the Committee, the choice of contractor is particularly important, bearing in mind the unique opportunity the bookshop presents for retailing (on-site, through mail order and on the Internet) a wide range of materials related not only to United Nations publications and the United Nations itself, but also to United Nations themes such as disarmament, humanitarian activities, development and so on.**

IS3.11 **While official publications represent a source of potential revenue for the Organization, the Advisory Committee recognizes that the dissemination of such materials is often important irrespective of the income derived, and in many cases pricing should take into account the target audience's ability to pay. Nevertheless, every effort should be made to minimize cost and maximize offsetting revenue, and perhaps even to make a profit. A key element in the marketing of publications is a thorough knowledge of the true cost of their preparation, production and dissemination. In this regard, the Committee has recommended a pilot project based on best business practices, using one or more publications of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (see chap. I above). For the future, consideration could be given to greater use of joint arrangements for production and distribution with publishers of scholarly and institutional materials.**

IS3.12 **With respect to catering services (see ibid., paras. 32-33), the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that there is a need for a re-examination of the catering operations at the United Nations and their actual cost to the United Nations. The specific catering requirements of delegations, staff and the general public should be taken into account.** In this connection, the Committee recalls that the matter of upgrading the visitors' coffee shop is covered in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations visitors' experience (A/55/835). **The Committee is of the opinion that the business potential for a catering operation at the United Nations is such that contractual arrangements could be concluded that would be financially attractive to both the contractor and the United Nations while preserving the unique character of the United Nations site. The Committee was informed that the contract with the current contractor for operation of the Staff Café, the cafeteria and the Delegates' Dining Room would be expiring in April 2003. The Committee requests that it be consulted before the conclusion of any new arrangement.**

IS3.13 **The Advisory Committee also recommends that contractual arrangements include a provision for annual independent auditing, to be conducted at the expense of the contractor. Moreover, those arrangements should be based on a fair market return to the United Nations for space occupied by the contractors.**

Notes

[1] The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 is contained in documents A/56/6 (Introduction), A/56/6 (Sects. 1-33) and A/56/6 (Income sects. 1-3). The approved programme budget will subsequently be issued in final form as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/56/6/Rev.1).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

[3] Ibid. *Fifty-fourth session, Supplement No. 7* (A/54/7).

[4] In this regard, the Advisory Committee recalls section IV, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 55/222 of 23 December 2000, whereby the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in exceptional cases where an interpreter is assigned to an interpretation booth for which he or she has not passed the requisite competitive examination of the Interpretation Service, to set up an internal examination that the interpreter must pass before such assignment.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/52/7/Rev.1).

[6] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).

[7] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/50/7).

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